

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Kim Nelson

***Response: “Shalom”**

**Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom,
Kami no mi megumi.**

*(Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, may we be blessed with
grace from God.)*

**Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom,
yuta kani, yuta kani, yuta kani.**

*(Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, abundantly, abundantly,
abundantly.)*

Postlude

Nancy Arata-Fong

*We invite you to remain seated during the Postlude as we enjoy the music
and God’s presence together. If you need to go, please feel free to do so.
Go with God’s blessings.*

In Appreciation:

Greeters:	Jana Nakase-Lee, Diane Younglove
Ushers:	Aki Kumagai, Miko Kumagai
Parking Barriers (Sat):	William Yee
Parking:	Phillip Chew
Sound System:	Liam Wright
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Judy Yee
Altar Flowers:	Aki & Miko Kumagai



The Celebration of Worship

March 23, 2025 • 3rd Sunday of Lent

Guest Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Kim Nelson

Worship Leader:

Steve Hanway

Pianist:

Nancy Arata-Fong

Choir Conductor:

Ben Pryor

Japanese Reader:

Michael Wright

YES:

Julie Chew, Cathy Nishizaki

Centering Prayer for Worship

*Do all the Good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the People you can,
As long as you can.*

Attributed to the Rev. John Wesley

Prelude

Nancy Arata-Fong

*Introit

**All: Make us one, Lord, make us one. Holy Spirit make us
one. Let Your love flow so the world will know, we are one
in You.**

** Those who can, please stand*

Welcome and Announcements

Donna Komure-Toyama

Call to Worship

Steve Hanway

Leader: We come, because we seek our God.

**People: Every morning, every day, every evening,
every moment, God is with us.**

Leader: We come, because we hunger for Christ.

**People: Jesus will feed us with hope,
will replace our emptiness with grace.**

Leader: We come, because we thirst for the Spirit.

**All: Who fills our yearning for peace,
who ends the drought of justice.**

*Opening Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth (#473)

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the
love which from our birth, over and around us lies,

Refrain. Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful
praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of
light,

Refrain.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for
the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,

Refrain.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends
on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,

Refrain.

For Thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love,

Refrain.

Opportunity To Present Offerings

**All: Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the
Holy One. Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ,
God's Son. (Repeat) And now let the weak say, "I am
strong," let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the
Lord has done for us. (Repeat) Give thanks. Give thanks.**

*Doxology

**All: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise God
all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly
host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Steve Hanway

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Dr. Kim Nelson

The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

**All: Our Parent Who art in heaven, hallowed be Your
name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and
forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead
us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours
is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.**

*Sending Hymn: This Is My Father's World (#293)

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature
sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my
Father's world: I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of
skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world: Oh, let me ne'er forget that though
the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet. This is my
Father's world: the battle is not done; Jesus who died shall be
satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.

and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
 Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
 Behold, you shall call nations that you know not,
 and nations that knew you not shall run to you,
 because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.
 Seek the Lord while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
 let the wicked forsake his way,
 and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
 let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Sermon & 3rd Scripture Reading Rev. Dr. Kim Nelson
 “Where Are You on Your Lenten Journey?”

I Corinthians 10:1-6

I want you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same supernatural food and all drank the same supernatural drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless with most of them God was not pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things are warnings for us, not to desire evil as they did.

Musical Interlude

Nancy Arata-Fong

Invitation to Confession

Steve Hanway

Leader: Do you think that because you have spoken hurtfully, or failed to help, or left God behind as you travel through each day, that God forgets you? God's love is as constant as the sun; God's forgiveness is as sure as the stars in the night sky. Let us join together, as we pray, saying,

Prayer of Confession

Steve Hanway

Leader: The thirsty come,

People: and we offer lead-filled water;

Leader: the hungry come,

People: and we offer a single can from our overflowing pantries;

Leader: the lonely come,

People: and we cling to our cliques;

Leader: the broken come,

People: and we hand them an aspirin;

Leader: the needy come,

People: but we have wasted everything on stuff we do not need.

All: Have mercy on us, Steadfast love, and pour your heart into our grace-parched souls. As you have been with us in every moment, may we go to be with all around us. May we listen to the needs and hearts of others, even as you lean down to listen to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A Time for Contemplation

This time of quiet is offered to encourage you to share your personal thoughts with God as well as listen to God through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Assurance of God's Grace

Steve Hanway

Leader: In every moment, God seeks what is best for us, continually offering us peace, hope, and forgiveness.

People: We will bless God in every moment, rejoicing with the One who fills us with steadfast love.

All: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

***Response to God's Forgiveness:** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (#582 Glory to God hymnal)

All Sing: Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

Steve Hanway

Leader: As the forgiven and redeemed people of God, let us share our peace and joy with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Children's Message:

Rev. Dr. Kim Nelson

Children and youth may now leave for YES.

***Hymn of Reflection:** Come and Find the Quiet Center
(#2128 black songbook)

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being,
touches base, making space within our thinking, lifting shades
to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding
scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain, let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain: There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care, in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

Unison Prayer of Guidance

All: Now may the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts, the interpretation of our minds, and the response of our hands be acceptable to You, our Lord and our Redeemer. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading (Japanese)

Michael Wright

Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God,
for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2nd Scripture Reading

Steve Hanway

Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, every one who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Hearken diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in fatness.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;