

***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

Wade Tambara

*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:	Jack Nordman, Miyo Uchida
Ushers:	Julie Chew, Terri Bowman
Parking:	Dave McGil
Sound System:	Cathy Nishizakil
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Judy Yee
Altar Flowers:	Michael & Luda Wright



The Celebration of Worship

June 1, 2025 • Ascension Sunday

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Worship Leader:

Betsy Eskridge

Pianist:

Wade Tambara

Choir Conductor:

Ben Pryor

Japanese Reader:

Miyo Uchida

Communion Elders:

Cathy Nishizaki, Irene Uno

YES:

Ben Pryor, Kishwer Vikaas

Centering Prayer for Worship

*O God of earth and sky,
your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,
ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things.
Though he is hidden from our sight, give us faith to trust that,
as he promised, he abides with us on earth until the end of time;*

*By your Holy Spirit, hold the church in unity,
that the world may believe in him whom you have sent.
May we be united with Christ in faith and love and service,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
until his mercy and grace fill your whole creation. Amen.*

From The Daily Office: A Book of Hours for Daily Prayer

Prelude

Wade Tambara

** Those who can, please stand*

***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.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Call to Worship

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: O God, You have glorified our Savior with a triumphant resurrection from the dead and ascension into heaven, where He sits at Your right hand.

People: We praise our Lord Jesus Christ for His Ascension, which is a promise of our own resurrection and a guarantee of His continued presence with us.

All: Blessed are You, O Christ. You have ascended to your place with God Most High, yet by Your Spirit, You remain with us forever. We praise You glorious Lord!

***Opening Hymn: He Is Exalted (#2070 black songbook)**

Sing twice

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise him. He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise his name!

He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign; heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name. He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

Invitation to Confession

Leader: God's Kingdom is at hand-Jesus proclaimed it. But, it often feels like it's a million miles away. Jesus demonstrated its grace and showed its power, but the signs often appear faded or absent in our world. As we confess our sins to God, let's ask God to give us grace to follow Christ's loving example, and live empowered by His Spirit.

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Morning Prayer & 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: Crown Him with Many Crowns (#151)**

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end; and round His pierced feet
fair flowers of Paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

- from the Iona Community

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Receiving the Elements

Prayer after Communion

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

Betsy Eskridge

Prayer of Confession

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: God, we confess that we have spent much of our journey looking above, looking for escape, instead of looking around us. We have searched for rescue instead of being the rescuer.

People: Forgive us for the times we stood looking at heaven when there was work to be done right here on earth.

All: When we have lost our way, remind us of Yours. Holy Spirit, fall fresh on us again, so we can bring the transforming love of God in Christ to the world.

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

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: God's mercy and grace abounds. God is with us in our confession and transformation. Each of us is beloved, forgiven, accepted, and empowered to love our neighbors.

All: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We trust that, as we honor Him, Christ's reign will deepen in our lives and in our world, to the glory of God. 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

Betsy Eskridge

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.

Choir Song

“Come Taste the Joy of the Lord”

Children’s Message

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

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)

Miyo Uchida

1 Timothy 3:16

This Christian life is a great mystery, far exceeding our understanding, but some things are clear enough: Jesus appeared in a human body, was proved right by the invisible Spirit, was seen by angels. He was proclaimed among all kinds of peoples, believed in all over the world, and taken up into heavenly glory.

2nd Scripture Reading

Betsy Eskridge

Luke 24:44-51

Then Jesus told the disciples, “Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled.” He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read their Bibles this way. He said, “You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in his name to all nations—starting from here, from Jerusalem! You’re the first to hear and see it. You’re the witnesses. What comes next is very important: I am sending what my Father promised to you, so stay here in the city until he arrives, until you’re equipped with power from on high.” He then led them out of the city over to Bethany.

Raising his hands he blessed them, and while blessing them, made his exit, and was carried up into heaven.

Sermon & 3rd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“For the Time Being”

Acts 1:6-11

When they were together for the last time they asked Jesus, “Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?” He told them, “You don’t get to know the time. Timing is the Father’s business. What you’ll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world.” These were his last words. As they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! They said, “You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he left.”

Musical Interlude

Wade Tambara

***Communion Hymn:** In Remembrance of Me (#2254 black songbook))

In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me, drink this wine. In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God’s own will is done.

In remembrance of me, heal the sick. In remembrance of me, feed the poor. In remembrance of me, open the door and let your neighbors in, let them in.

Take, eat, and be comforted; drink and remember, too, that this is my body and precious blood shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of me, search for truth. In remembrance of me, always love. In remembrance of me, don’t look above, but in your heart, look for God. Do this in remembrance of me.