

In Appreciation:

Greeters:	Carla Hart, Luyan Tang
Ushers:	Bill Grissom, Herning Grissom
Parking:	Jack Nordman
Sound System:	Cathy Nishizaki
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Judy Yee
Altar Flowers:	Tang Family



The Celebration of Worship

June 29, 2025 • 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Preacher:	Ruler Elder Jacquelyn Sneed
Worship Leader:	Sue Goodwin
Pianist:	Haruko Sakakibara
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Miko Kumagai

Centering Prayer for Worship

There is no God like you, Crafter of Peace: Blessed are all who travel along the peace highway: who move easily along the paths of friendship and good will. When worries cause us to toss and turn in the night, we can cradle them in Your peace; when anger is a pebble in our shoes, rubbing our souls raw, we can soak them in Your tranquil pools of life. Gentle God of Grace, enable us to become peacekeepers for Your creation. Embrace us with that mystery of the gospel in which pain is transformed into praise, where restlessness becomes calmness, and agitation is replaced by contentment and connection with each other; gifts from the One who came that we might have peace and justice in our lives and our world, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

- Thom Shuman

Prelude

Haruko Sakakibara

** 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

Sue Goodwin

Call to Worship

Sue Goodwin

Leader: In the midst of a world where so many people hunger and thirst . . .

All: come worship a God who feeds the hungry.

Leader: In the midst of a world where so many people are abused and oppressed . . .

All: come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.

Leader: In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumors of war . . .

All: come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.

All: In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness . . . come worship a God who gives life meaning.

***Opening Hymn: Spirit of the Living God (#322)**

Sing 3 times.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

***Sending Hymn: Every Time I Feel the Spirit (#315)**

Refrain. Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Up on the mountain, when my Lord spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all around me, it looked so fine, till I asked my Lord if all was mine.

Jordan river, chilly and cold, it chills the body but not the soul. There is but one train upon this track; it runs to heaven and then right back.

Refrain.

***Benediction**

Ruler Elder Jacquelyn Sneed

***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

Haruko Sakakibara

"Aria" (Church Cantata) by S. Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

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.

However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Sermon: "Decisions, Decisions"

Musical Interlude Haruko Sakakibara
"Träumerei" by Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

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** Sue Goodwin

Joys & Concerns Sue Goodwin

Pastoral 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.

Invitation to Confession Sue Goodwin

Leader: God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. Still, we engage in confession, admitting to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God's love, let's make our confession to God.

(- Beth Merrill Neel)

Prayer of Confession Sue Goodwin

Leader: Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life: Hear our prayer.

People: There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us from one another and from You.

Leader: We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow, for fear of admitting our part in the separation, for fear of being rejected when we reach out.

People: You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to wholeness with each other and with You.

All: Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations.

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 Sue Goodwin

Leader: Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ 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**

Sue Goodwin

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

Sue Goodwin

***Hymn of Reflection: Somebody’s Knocking at Your Door (#382)**

Somebody’s knocking at your door;
Somebody’s knocking at your door;
O sinner, why don’t you answer?
Somebody’s knocking at your door.

Knocks like Jesus, Somebody’s knocking at your door;
Knocks like Jesus, Somebody’s knocking at your door;
O sinner, why don’t you answer?
Somebody’s knocking at your door.

Can’t you hear Him? Somebody’s knocking at your door;
Can’t you hear Him? Somebody’s knocking at your door;
O sinner, why don’t you answer?
Somebody’s knocking at your door.

Answer Jesus. Somebody’s knocking at your door;
Answer Jesus. Somebody’s knocking at your door;
O sinner, why don’t you answer?
Somebody’s knocking at your door.

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)

Miko Kumagai

Proverbs 3:5-6 from *The Message*

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don’t try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; God’s the One who will keep you on track.

2nd Scripture Reading

Sue Goodwin

Amos 5:21-24

“I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.
Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.
Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

3rd Scripture Reading & Sermon Rul. Elder Jacquelyn Sneed

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly.