

In Appreciation:

Greeters: Sachiko Yoshikawa, Diane Younglove
Ushers: Donna Komure-Toyama, William Yee
Parking: Tak Fukuman
Sound System: Titus Toyama
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Lois Van Beers
Altar Flowers: Edwin & Lisa Imura,
in loving memory of their son, Kevin



The Celebration of Worship

July 20, 2025 • 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader: Donna Komure-Toyama
Pianist: Janet Hill
Choir Conductor: Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader: Sachiko Yoshikawa



*Baseball at Manzanar 1940s
Photo by Ansel Adams*

Centering Prayer for Worship

Creator, Christ, Holy Spirit, we want to worship you. Even more, we want to experience you so that we can give our whole selves to you. As we open ourselves to your presence, create a holy space where all of us can encounter, experience and embrace you. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

- from In God's Presence by Graham Standish

*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

** Those who can, please stand*

Call to Worship

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: Divine Mystery, whose love appears in our darkest moments;

People: Eternal Friend, who keeps Your promises even when we wander away.

Leader: Wondrous Creator, who is always breathing life and diversity and possibility into the world;

All: Steadfast Love who claims us as Your own, we greet You with joy, and lift our hearts and voices to praise You.

*Opening Hymn: Great Is the Lord (#2022 black songbook)

Refrain. Great is the Lord, He is holy and just;
by His power we trust in His love.
Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true;
by His mercy He proves He is love.

Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

Refrain.

Great are You, Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great are You, Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great are You, Lord; I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice:
Great are You, Lord! Great are You, Lord!

Invitation to Confession

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: We want to do life differently. We trust God, but we want to trust more. We love God but we want to love more. We need God's help to do life differently. Let's ask God's Spirit to lead us in reflection and repentance as we pray our prayer of confession.

*Sending Hymn: Be Thou My Vision (#339)

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; nought be all else to me, save that Thou art- Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,

Thou mine inheritance now and always: Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

*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

Janet Hill

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.

Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Musical Interlude

Janet Hill

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

Donna Komure-Toyama

Joys & Concerns

Donna Komure-Toyama

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.

Prayer of Confession

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: Holy God, You encourage us to hold onto hope during troubling times, but we fall back into fear.

People: You call us to look for You in all of life, but we get distracted and discouraged by the pain inside us and in our world.

Leader: Remove all that resists Your goodness and grace from us, and plant in us a willingness to turn to You, and learn from You.

All: Merciful Maker, You created us for better use; remake us now. Fill our hearts with faith until we shine with Your glory and find our place in Your purpose. 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

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: Hear the Good News: By faith we have been saved, our hearts washed clean by the power of Christ's forgiveness.

People: Refreshed, revived and renewed by God's Spirit, we believe the Good News of the Gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are freed from shame and guilt, forgiven and empowered to love and serve God and all the world. 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**

Donna Komure-Toyama

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. Sarah Nave

***Hymn of Reflection:** My Life Flows On (#2212 black songbook)

My life flows on in endless song, above earth’s lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain. No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I’m clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

Refrain.

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth. What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.

Refrain.

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

Refrain.

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)

Sachiko Yoshikawa

Isaiah 45:3

I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

2nd Scripture Reading

Donna Komure-Toyama

1 John 2:7-11

My dear friends, I’m not writing anything new here. This is the oldest commandment in the book, and you’ve known it from day one. It’s always been implicit in the Message you’ve heard. On the other hand, perhaps it is new, freshly minted as it is in both Christ and you—the darkness fading away and the True Light already blazing!

Anyone who claims to live in God’s light and hates a brother or sister is still in the dark. It’s the person who loves brother and sister who dwells in God’s light and doesn’t block the light from others. But whoever hates is still in the dark, stumbles around in the dark, doesn’t know which end is up, blinded by the darkness.

3rd Scripture Reading & Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“Who’s Afraid of the Dark?”

Psalm 139:1-12

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your Spirit?