

Postlude

Janet Hill & Lyn Haberstock

“The Lord Bless and Keep You” (#2280 black songbook)

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious, gracious.

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift his countenance on you and give peace, give you peace. Shalom. Shalom.

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, Luda Wright
- Ushers:** Diane Younglove, Gary Younglove
- Parking:** Phillip Chew
- Sound System:** Jonathan Sakakibara
- Zoom Moderator/Greeter:** Judy Yee
- Altar Flowers:** Cathy Nishizaki,
in loving memory of Terry Nishizaki



The Celebration of Worship

July 27, 2025 • 7th Sunday after Pentecost

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| Pastor: | Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave |
| Worship Leader: | Haruko Sakakibara |
| Pianist: | Janet Hill |
| Choir Conductor: | Ben Pryor |
| Japanese Reader: | Michael Wright |

Centering Prayer for Worship

Great is your love for us, Welcoming God. Your grace is higher than the farthest star; your peace is deeper than our greatest emptiness; your hope stretches into all eternity. Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, as we gather in your presence this morning, be our light in this new day. As we worship, we open our hearts to receive your Spirit. Let our lives reflect your glory, our words reveal your goodness, and our actions shine with your grace. Amen.

***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

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: This is God's house, a place of welcome and peace. This is a place to encounter, experience and embrace the Holy.

People: From the midst of our real lives with our very real concerns, we come to seek courage and strength from God's presence, and inspiration from God's amazing grace.

All: We rejoice in God's wisdom and goodness as we offer praise to our magnificent God!

*Opening Hymn: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (#263)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might; Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small; In all life Thou livest, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, then wither and perish; but naught changes Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou dwellest in light, Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight; all praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

Invitation to Confession

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: By faith, we believe that Christ dwells in our hearts by His Spirit, to forgive, guide, and transform us. As we confess our sins to God, God speaks peace to us, bringing healing to our brokenness. Join me as we pray together.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

Refrain.

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Refrain.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

Refrain.

*Responsive Benediction

Rev. Sheri Edwards

Leader: May God both enlighten and endarken us,

People: with a heightened awareness of God's constant presence and abiding love.

Leader: May we remember, especially in times of darkness, that we are called by name-sought after- by the One who promises to be with us always.

*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.)*

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**

Haruko Sakakibara

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

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.

***Sending Hymn: Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness**

(#314 Glory to God hymnal)

Sing verses 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Prayer of Confession

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: Holy God, your blessings are as plentiful as the stars above and as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore.

People: We confess that we have been more concerned with our to-do lists than with your desire for justice and wholeness for all creation.

Leader: We seek recognition and approval from others, forgetting to trust your constant care and acceptance for our sense of worth.

People: We have clung to hostility against each other and hardened our hearts to the creative power of grace and love.

All: Forgive us. Merciful Maker, purify our hearts so that our lives bring you glory. 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

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: God is with us in all of life, the good times and the awful times.

People: We are grateful for God’s compassionate, sustaining presence in our lives, and in our world.

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

Haruko Sakakibara

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: When Peace Like a River

(It is Well with My Soul Worship & Rejoice hymnal)

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain. It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul;) It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control: that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.

Refrain.

He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought. My sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain.

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend: "Even so"- it is well with my soul.

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)

Michael Wright

Psalm 97:1-2

"The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne."

2nd Scripture Reading

Haruko Sakakibara

Isaiah 42:16

And I will lead the blind

in a way that they know not,

in paths that they have not known

I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,

the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I will do,

and I will not forsake them.

3rd Scripture Reading & Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Learning to Walk in the Dark #2

"Hello Darkness my Old Friend"

Exodus 19:16-21

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God. They took their stand at the foot of the mountain.

Now all of Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the Lord had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently. As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder. When the Lord descended upon Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain, the Lord summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people not to break through to see the Lord; otherwise many of them will perish.