

**Postlude**

Haruko Sakakibara

“From Heaven Above to Earth I come”

by F.W. Zachau (1663-1712)

*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:** Judy Fukuman, Luda Wright
- Ushers:** Aki Kumagai, Miko Kumagai
- Parking:** Russ Hart
- Sound System:** Dave McGill
- Zoom Moderator/Greeter:** Lori Hart
- Altar Flowers:** William & Judy Yee



**The Celebration of Worship**

August 10, 2025 • 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

- Guest Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Kim Nelson
- Worship Leader:** Donna Komure-Toyama
- Pianist:** Haruko Sakakibara
- Choir Conductor:** Ben Pryor
- Japanese Reader:** Aki Kumagai



Iona Abbey, Isle of Iona, Scotland

**Centering Prayer for Worship**

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
 from where will my help come?  
 My help comes from the Lord,  
 who made heaven and earth.  
 He will not let your foot be moved;  
 he who keeps you will not slumber.*

- Psalm 121:1-3

**\*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. Kim Nelson

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*\* Those who can, please stand*

## Call to Worship

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: With tongues of flame, the Holy Spirit descends to renew our hope.

**All: Unite us, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Like the rush of wind, we sense God's presence blowing afresh in our lives.

**All: Unite us, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Across the barriers of language and culture, Christ's message of love and grace is clear.

**All: Unite us, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Even in the midst of divisions, may we listen and follow the footsteps of Christ.

**All: Unite us, Holy Spirit! Amen.**

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

*Sing 2 times.*

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

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: All of us, every single one, have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Yet, we learn from Holy Scripture, that we are made right by the free gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours through faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, trusting in God's grace, let us fully and truthfully confess our sin, so that we may receive pardon.

## Prayer of Confession

Donna Komure-Toyama

**All: Lord God, you know us too well. You know that we are like the disciples following the crucifixion and even the resurrection. Like them, we would rather hide and weep and complain, than proclaim the power of Your love.**

You moved on the waters, You called to the deep, then You coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep, and over the eons You called to each thing, "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

*Refrain.*

You swept through the desert, You stung with the sand; And You goaded Your people with a law and a land, and when they were blinded with their idols and lies, Then You spoke through Your prophets to open their eyes.

*Refrain.*

You sang in a stable, You cried from a hill, then You whispered in silence when the whole world was still, and down in the city, You called once again when You blew through Your people on the rush of the wind.

## \*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Kim Nelson

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.*)

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

**Musical Interlude** Haruko Sakakibara  
“Ave Verum Corpus” by W.A.Mozart (1756-1791)

**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.**

**\*Sending Hymn: Spirit (#319)**

*Refrain.* Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free, Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

**The world is a difficult place. We fear so much. So we hold back in our demonstration of our faith in You. We don’t want to be offensive. But Your love and presence are disruptive to our world; but we know they are the only source of true healing. Bring Your Holy Presence upon us this day to illuminate Your Presence of joy in our hearts and our living. Bring Your Essence like rushing wind through our spirits that we may be turned in new directions for service and witness. We pray this in Jesus’ Name. 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

One: God’s awesome love is offered to you, even when you fear or are unsure of your faith. Know that God is with you. Be not afraid. Hallelujah! Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.  
**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**\*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. Kim Nelson

**\*Hymn of Reflection:** Come and Find the Quiet Center  
(#2128 in 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.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading (Japanese)**

Aki Kumagai

He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed  
them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the  
disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with  
awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have  
no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one  
but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain,  
Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son  
of man is raised from the dead."

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading**

Donna Komure-Toyama

Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, ...Come up to me on the mountain,  
and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the  
law and the commandment, which I have written for their  
instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and  
Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had  
said, ...Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron  
and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."  
Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered  
the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai,  
and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he  
called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the  
glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the  
mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered  
the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the  
mountain for forty days and forty nights.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Scripture Reading & Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Kim Nelson

Close Encounters of the Ultimate Kind

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his  
brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.  
And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like  
the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there  
appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then  
Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you  
wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for  
Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking,  
suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the  
cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am  
well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they  
fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came  
and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And  
when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself  
alone.