

**\*Sending Hymn:** Arise, Your Light Is Come! (#411)

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of Your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

**\*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** Nancy Arata-Fong

*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:** Carla Hart, Lynn Yamamoto
- Ushers:** Judy Fukuman, Tak Fukuman
- Parking:** Dave McGill
- Sound System:** Jonathan Sakakibara
- Zoom Moderator/Greeter:** Lois Van Beers
- Altar Flowers:** David & Nancy (Arata) Fong



## The Celebration of Worship

September 14, 2025 • 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

- Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
- Worship Leader:** Titus Toyama
- Pianist:** Nancy Arata-Fong
- Choir Conductor:** Ben Pryor
- Japanese Reader:** Haruko Sakakibara
- YES:** Jana Nakase-Lee, Lynn Yamamoto

### Centering Prayer for Worship

*Loving God,  
Give us pure hearts that we may see you,  
humble hearts that we may hear you,  
hearts of love that we may serve you,  
hearts of faith that we may live for you,  
reverent hearts that we may worship you,  
here and in the world out there,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Prelude** Nancy Arata-Fong

### \*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

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*\* Those who can, please stand*

## Call to Worship

Titus Toyama

Leader: Bless the Lord for the earth God has made, the seas and skies, forests and fields,

**People: All reveal your goodness and glory, awesome Creator. We celebrate the wondrous power of your beauty and majesty.**

Leader: Here and now God's Spirit is among us, beside us, inside us, empowering us for the purposes of heaven.

**All: Not denying the world, but delighting in it, not condemning the world, but redeeming it through Jesus Christ. Receive our grateful praise, Lord of all the earth!**

## \*Opening Hymn: 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

*Chorus.* Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul. Worship His Holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul. I worship Your Holy name.

The sun comes up. It's a new day dawning.

It's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,  
let me be singing when the evening comes.

*Chorus.*

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.

Your name is great and Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing  
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

*Chorus.*

And on that day, when my strength is failing,

The end draws near and my time has come,

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending

Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

*Chorus.*

But in the morning, after Nabal had sobered up, she told him the whole story. Right then and there he had a heart attack and fell into a coma. About ten days later God finished him off and he died. When David heard that Nabal was dead he said, "Blessed be God who has stood up for me against Nabal's insults, kept me from an evil act, and let Nabal's evil boomerang back on him."

## Musical Interlude

Nancy Arata-Fong

## 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

Titus Toyama

## Joys & Concerns

Titus 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.**

He's impossible - a real brute!"

Abigail flew into action. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep ready for cooking, a bushel of roasted grain, a hundred raisin cakes, and two hundred fig cakes, and she had it all loaded on some donkeys. Then she said to her young servants, "Go ahead and pave the way for me. I'm right behind you." But she said nothing to her husband Nabal.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Scripture Reading & Sermon Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

The Next Conversation Series "Donkey Diplomacy"

1 Samuel 25:20-39

As she was riding her donkey, descending into a ravine, David and his men were descending from the other end, so they met there on the road. David had just said, "That sure was a waste, guarding everything this man had out in the wild so that nothing was lost - and now he rewards me with insults. A real slap in the face! May God do his worst to me if Nabal and every cur in his misbegotten brood isn't dead meat by morning!"

As soon as Abigail saw David, she got off her donkey and fell on her knees at his feet, her face to the ground in homage, saying, "My master, let me take the blame! Let me speak to you. Don't dwell on what that brute Nabal did. He acts out the meaning of his name: Nabal, Fool. And now, as God lives and as you live, God has kept you from this avenging murder - and may your enemies, all who seek my master's harm, end up like Nabal!

Now take this gift that I have brought to you, and give it to the young men with you. And David said, "Blessed be God, the God of Israel. God sent you to meet me! And blessed be your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from murder. A close call! If you had not come as quickly as you did, by morning there would have been nothing left of Nabal but dead meat." Then David accepted the gift she brought him and said, "Return home in peace."

When Abigail got home she found Nabal presiding over a huge banquet. He was in high spirits - and very, very drunk. So she didn't tell him anything of what she'd done until morning.

### Invitation to Confession

Titus Toyama

Leader: Jesus, Healer of the hopeless, invites us to confess all that we have done, and not done, which brings hurt to others and harm to ourselves. Let's pray together to God.

### Prayer of Confession

Titus Toyama

Leader: Beloved Creator, You alone know the whole truth about us. You know there are times we feel overwhelmed and weighed down.

**People: In those times when we feel lost and lonely, discouraged and depressed, help us to reach out to connect with You, and with others.**

Leader: You tell us to love others as we love ourselves, but we isolate ourselves and judge others as 'them' instead of discovering how You see them, as Your beloved children.

**All: Forgive us. Help us find peace and purpose in living for You. Reveal Yourself to us in the unfolding of each new day.**

#### *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

Titus Toyama

Leader: Day by day, God offers us mercy and hope. Moment to moment, we are surrounded by God's never-ending love.

**All: We trust and believe the Good News of the gospel, 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

Titus 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

Sue Goodwin

### Blessing of the Backpacks

*Children and youth may now leave for YES.*

**\*Hymn of Reflection:** The Summons (#2130 black songbook) *Sing verses 1, 2, 4, 5.*

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world  
around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you  
in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

### 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)

Haruko Sakakibara

Romans 12:17-18

Don't pay back evil for evil; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

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

Titus Toyama

1 Samuel 25 2-19

There was a certain man who carried on his business in the region of Carmel. He was very prosperous - three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. The man's name was Nabal (Fool), and his wife's name was Abigail. The woman was intelligent and good-looking, the man brutish and mean. David, out in the backcountry, heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep and sent ten of his young men off with these instructions: "Go to Carmel and approach Nabal. Greet him in my name, 'Life and peace to you. Peace to your household! I heard that it's sheep-shearing time. Here's the point: When your shepherds were camped near us we didn't take advantage of them. They didn't lose a thing all the time they were with us in Carmel. What I'm asking is that you be generous with my men - share the feast! David's young men went and delivered his message word for word to Nabal. Nabal tore into them, "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse?"

Do you think I'm going to take good bread and wine and meat for my sheepshearers and give it to men I've never laid eyes on?" David's men went back and told David what he had said. David said, "Strap on your swords!" David and his men set out, four hundred of them. Meanwhile, one of the young shepherds told Abigail, Nabal's wife, what had happened: "David sent messengers from the backcountry to salute our master, but he tore into them with insults. Yet these men treated us very well. They formed a wall around us, protecting us day and night all the time we were out tending the sheep. Do something quickly because big trouble is ahead for our master and all of us. Nobody can talk to him.