

gracious King”: the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world: above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing: O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

***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 Haruko Sakakibara

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear” arr. by R.S. Wills (1819-1900) and L. Larson (1954-)

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: Maurine Huang, Lynn Yamamoto
Ushers: Terri Bowman, Julie Chew
Parking: Tak Fukuman
Sound System: Liam Wright
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Lois Van Beers
Altar Flowers: Victor and Sherri Yee



The Celebration of Worship

December 7, 2025 • Second Sunday in Advent

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader: Jack Nordman
Pianist: Haruko Sakakibara
Choir Conductor: Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader: Miyo Uchida
Communion Elders: Phillip Chew, Gary Younglove
YES: Ben Pryor, Kishwer Vikaas

Centering Prayer for Advent Worship

Holy God, in this season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth and we anticipate His return at the end of time. Thank You that Jesus was born that the world might have peace. Jesus died and was raised that we might have life. Jesus will come again to welcome us home to You.

Prelude Haruko Sakakibara

***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*

Advent Candle Lighting

Jun, Luyan & Richard Tang

Reader: This morning during the season of Advent we light the second candle in the Advent wreath, which is the candle of peace. We light the first candle in hope. (Light the first candle.) We light the second candle for peace. (Light the second candle.) Advent sets a mood of waiting in the dark for Christ's coming, waiting for the one who is the Light of the world. Each new candle we light shows we are getting closer to the day we celebrate Christ's birth. We light these candles today to remind us that Christ is the Prince of Peace, the one who brings peace to all who will receive it. Let's pray:

Make ready our hearts, O God, to prepare the way for your Son. We anticipate His coming, and the light of your love and peace that burns so brightly in Jesus.

All: By His coming, give us the peace of Your Presence always, and shed Your light through the difficult times in our lives. May we live in peace with all people and all creation. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

***Advent Candle Lighting Song:** Light a Candle Bright and Tall (David Wood 2012)

Sing to the tune of "For the Beauty of the Earth" (#473)

Light a candle bright and tall for the Peace we wish to know.
Peace on Earth for great and small, God's Good News to us bestows.

Shine within our hearts today, come O Peace, to us, we pray.

Call to Worship

Jack Nordman

Leader: Holy God, we long for Your peace, and trust in Your promise; we hear Your call to turn toward You. Meet us here and fill our minds with Your wisdom and our hearts with Your peace.

All: As we worship together, open us to the vision of Your dream of wholeness for all creation. Gracious God, receive our grateful worship as we prepare our hearts for His coming again. Amen.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Receiving the Elements

Prayer after Communion

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

Jack Nordman

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: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (#38)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-

The angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time.”

Musical Interlude

Haruko Sakakibara

“Ukrainian Bell Carol” by Mykola D. Leontovych (1877-1921)

***Communion Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (#9)**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

- from the Iona Community

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

***Opening Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (#2)**

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, bring, By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Invitation to Confession

Jack Nordman

Leader: During this holy season of Advent, we hear promises made long ago. Of the One who repairs our mistakes, of the One who mends our brokenness. If we are to welcome the Christ Child into our hearts, we must speak of all the ways we have hardened ourselves against the good news He brings. Let’s confess our sins and pray together.

Prayer of Confession

Jack Nordman

Leader: Eternal God, through long generations you prepared the way for the coming of Your Son. We’re impatient for Him to come and set things right. We’re anxious about our world, fearful of injustice and crime, worried about the future. People: Oh God, forgive us for rushing past You in our holiday hurriedness. You call us to turn our lives around, and work patiently to prepare the way for Your Reign, but we get discouraged and give up. Help us rest in Your peaceful presence as we bring You the hidden, wounded areas of our lives for Your help and healing.

All: Teach us to proclaim His birth so all the weary world may be filled with Your peace. Send Your Light that it may shine through us this season, and every season. Amen.

A Time for Silent Contemplation

Assurance of God’s Grace

Jack Nordman

Leader: God’s promise is that our whole being—spirit, soul and body will be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus

Christ. (1 Thessalonians. 5:23) Rejoice, then, as we receive forgiveness and peace in Christ's name.

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** Jack Nordman
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.

Choir Song
"Peace, Peace" Arr. by Fred Bock

Children's Message Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Children and youth may now leave for YES.

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) Miyo Uchida
John 14:27
Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

2nd Scripture Reading Jack Nordman

Isaiah 9:6
For a child will be born to us, a son given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

3rd Scripture Reading & Sermon Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
"Tending the Holy" Luke 1:5-20

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. And yet they had no child, because Elizabeth was infertile, and they were both advanced in years. Now it happened that while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division, according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. Now an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice over his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers back to their children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in her years."