

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

**\*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:** Ian Davis, Mieko Davis  
**Ushers:** Mieko Davis, Haruko Sakakibara  
**Parking:** Russ Hart  
**Sound System:** Titus Toyama  
**Zoom Moderator/Greeter:** Judy Yee  
**Altar Flowers:** Steve & Barbie Fujinaka,  
in loving memory of George Matsuoka



## The Celebration of Worship

December 14, 2025 • Third Sunday in Advent

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave  
Worship Leader: Donna Komure-Toyama  
Pianist: Nancy Arata-Fong  
Choir Conductor: Ben Pryor  
Japanese Reader: Haruko Sakakibara  
YES: Jana Nakase-Lee, Kris Sazaki

### Centering Prayer for Advent Worship

*All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With singing angels, we praise your name, and tell the earth His story, that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

- From *Book of Common Worship*

**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.**

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*\* Those who can, please stand*

## Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

### Advent Candle Lighting Ian, Mieke, Hannah & Sora Davis

Reader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light two purple candles on the Advent wreath, and one pink candle. The candle of JOY. (*Light three candles now*).

Joy shines in the darkness. It sings in the shadows. It cannot be contained. It was the hope of the saints, the call of the prophets, the courage of young Mary, the faithfulness of Joseph, the excitement of the shepherds, and magnificent glory of the angels. Open your heart to joy and you will recognize joy shining in the most challenging struggle to the most wondrous delight, for God's joy flows through everything. Let's pray:

Promised One, as we prepare the way for Your coming, help us find joy in You.

**All: We will give love and joy with open hands and we'll find God's joy shining in the power that can transform lives. Candle in the window, twinkling lights on a tree, star in the night sky. Jesus, Light of God's joy, lead us home to You. Amen.**

### \*Advent Candle Lighting Song: Away in a Manger (#25)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

### Call to Worship

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: How beautiful are the voices of the angels, who teach us new songs of joy.

**People: How beautiful are the feet of the shepherds, who ran to tell of what they had seen and heard.**

Leader: Thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, born of Mary. In His face we behold your glory, for in His life and death is Your gift of salvation for all.

## 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: Joy to the World (#40)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her king;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.'

Springs of water will burst out in the wilderness,  
streams flow in the desert. Hot sands will become a cool oasis,  
thirsty ground a splashing fountain.

A highway shall be there called the Holy Road.

No one rude or rebellious is permitted on this road.

It's for God's people— impossible to get lost on this road.

Not even fools can get lost on it.

No lions on this road, no dangerous wild animals—

Nothing and no one dangerous or threatening.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion  
with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall  
obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

"Christmas Joy"

Luke 1:39-45

Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and traveled to a town  
in Judah in the hill country, straight to Zachariah's house, and  
greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the  
baby in her womb leaped. She was filled with the Holy Spirit,  
and sang out exuberantly, You're so blessed among women, and  
the babe in your womb, also blessed! And why am I so blessed  
that the mother of my Lord visits me? The moment the sound  
of your greeting entered my ears, The babe in my womb  
skipped like a lamb for sheer joy. Blessed woman, who believed  
what God said, believed every word would come true!

### Musical Interlude

Nancy Arata-Fong

**All: Teach is to proclaim His birth of splendor and  
mystery, so all the weary world may be filled with Your  
peace and joy.**

### \*Opening Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (#31)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored! Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heavenborn Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of  
righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing  
in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, born that we may no  
more die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us  
second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the  
newborn King!"

### Invitation to Confession

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: It is God Who provides the source of our joy. It runs  
deep and wide underneath all of life. Since we're tempted to  
depend on others for happiness and security, let's ask God to  
draw us back to Jesus, the One who brings us comfort and joy.

### Prayer of Confession

Donna Komure-Toyama

Leader: Dear God, in the darkness of the world's pain, Your  
blessed light begins to kindle. In the midst of temptations and  
missed opportunities, of our doubting of You and of  
ourselves, the great hope begins to rise again:

**People:** The hope that You will come to us, that the Child will be born again in our midst. Loving God, in this holy season, let nothing rob us of the joy of Your presence.

**All:** Giver of Advent joy, help us to open ourselves to receive the gift of forgiveness and new life from You. May our cleansed hearts welcome and adore You as we share Your joy with those around us.

*A Time for Silent 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: How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear Him coming but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

**All: Thanks be to God! In the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, 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.**

**Choir Song**

"There Is a Great Joy Coming" Ragan Courtney & Buryl Red

**Children's Message**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

*Children and youth may now leave for YES.*

**\*Hymn of Reflection:** Angels We Have Heard on High (#23)  
Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain.* Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

*Refrain.*

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

*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.**

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

John 15:11

Jesus told His disciples, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading** Donna Komure-Toyama

Isaiah 35:1-10

Wilderness and desert will sing joyously,  
the desert will rejoice and flower—

Like the crocus in spring, bursting into blossom,  
a symphony of song and color.