

**\*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.)*

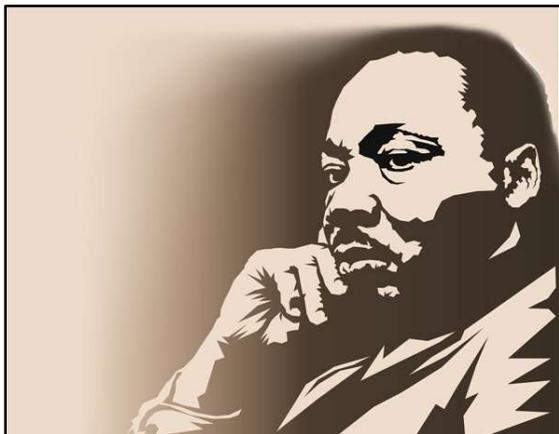
**Postlude**

Wade Tambara

*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, Megan Toyama
- Ushers:** Jack Nordman, William Yee
- Parking:** Phillip Chew
- Sound System:** Lois Van Beers
- Zoom Moderator/Greeter:** Judy Yee
- Altar Flowers:** Jana Nakase-Lee & Howard Nakase,  
in memory of their father, Yoichi “Mayor” Nakase,  
who was given that nickname, because his peers  
would seek his help in peaceably resolving conflicts.



**The Celebration of Worship**

January 18, 2026 • Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require  
a qualitative change in our souls as well as  
a quantitative change in our lives.  
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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|------------------|---------------------|
| Pastor:          | Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave |
| Worship Leader:  | Betsy Eskridge      |
| Pianist:         | Wade Tambara        |
| Choir Conductor: | Ben Pryor           |
| Japanese Reader: | Haruko Sakakibara   |

**Centering Prayer for Worship**

*Our Mother-Father God,  
 You have made us to be One Body with many members.  
 United and uniting. This is our calling.  
 You call us to share our diverse gifts activated by the same Spirit.  
 United and uniting. This is our redemption.  
 We gather to offer praise and worship to You, our Holy God, who  
 challenges us and calls us to create the Beloved Community.  
 United and uniting. This is our worship.*

**Prelude**

Wade Tambara

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*\* Those who can, please stand*

**\*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

**Call to Worship**

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: How good it is to worship you, God! For you gather us into a community where we discover the grace that breaks down barriers.

**People: You call us to glorify Jesus by dismantling conflict and division with his acceptance of all people.**

**All: We will live to reflect Christ's glory, empowered by his Spirit, and confident of his presence with us in every moment. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn: Come Sing, O Church, in Joy! (#430)**

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme, empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide, as we in mission magnify the Crucified! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Betsy Eskridge

**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: We Shall Overcome (#379 Glory to God hymnal)**

We shall overcome; we shall overcome;  
we shall overcome someday.

*Refrain.* O, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!  
We'll walk hand in hand; we'll walk hand in hand;  
we'll walk hand in hand someday.

*Refrain.*

We shall live in peace; we shall live in peace;  
we shall live in peace someday.

*Refrain.*

We are not afraid; we are not afraid; we are not afraid today.

*Refrain.*

God will see us through; God will see us through;  
God will see us through today.

*Refrain.*

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

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

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“Creating the Beloved Community”

John 1:29-40

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. The one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Teacher “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

### Musical Interlude

Wade Tambara

### 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.**

### Invitation to Confession

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: Sometimes our lives are more cluttered than committed, and we don’t know which way to turn. Sometimes, despite good intentions, we fail to live in ways that bring God glory. As we confess our failings and regrets to God, forgiveness’ freedom song fills our lives. Let’s make our confession to God in faith and hope.

### Prayer of Confession

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: O God, we long to co-create with You the Beloved Community which looks to the common good; privileges all equally, and creates societal systems which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of all.

**People: And yet we focus on our differences, envy each other’s gifts, and devalue others that are not like us.**

Leader: We allow the voices of brothers and sisters who do not look like us or think like us to be silenced. We have told them to wait for freedom, justice and equality.

**People: Sometimes we keep silent ourselves in the face of their struggle for full human life. We give in to weariness, discouragement and bitterness.**

**All: For it is not only hateful words and actions, but also appalling silence that strengthens the path of oppression. Lord, have mercy. Forgive us, we pray.**

*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

Betsy Eskridge

Leader: Sisters and Brothers, God works in us and through us!

**People: Thank You, God, for delighting in us even now, for forgiving us our slow action, our silence and our weariness, for empowering our work and inviting us once again to create with You the Beloved Community You long for.**

**All: Thanks be to God! 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** Betsy Eskridge

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:** We Are Called (#2172 black songbook)

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called \_\_\_ to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God!

*Refrain.* We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly, we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear! We are called \_\_\_ to be hope for the hopeless so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

*Refrain.*

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, \_\_\_ and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love!

*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

Luke 18:7-8

Jesus said, "And will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? Will God keep putting them off? I tell you, God will see that they get justice."

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

Psalm 40:1-10 from *The Message*

I waited and waited and waited for GOD.

At last God looked; finally God listened.

God lifted me out of the ditch, pulled me from deep mud.

Stood me up on a solid rock to make sure I wouldn't slip.

God taught me how to sing a God-song, a praise-song to our God.

More and more people are seeing this: they enter the mystery, abandoning themselves to GOD.

Blessed are you who give yourselves over to GOD, turn your backs on the world's "sure thing," ignore what the world worships;

The world's a huge stockpile of God-wonders and God-thoughts.

Nothing and no one compares to you!

Doing something for you, bringing something to you—that's not what you're after. Being religious, acting pious—that's not what you're asking for. You've opened my ears so I can listen.

I've kept back nothing, GOD—you know that. I didn't keep the news of your ways a secret, didn't keep it to myself.

I told it all, how dependable you are, how thorough.

I didn't hold back pieces of love and truth for myself alone. I told it all, let the congregation know the whole story.