

Crown Him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.



***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

Janet Hill

*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: Miyo Uchida, Diane Younglove
Parking: Gary Younglove
Sound System: Liam Wright
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Aki Kumagai
Altar Flowers: Michael & Luda Wright

Please stay for the Ukraine Benefit Concert

Igor Veligan, violin • Michael Dahlberg, cello • Natsuki Fukasawa, piano

For the children.



The Celebration of Worship

May 17, 2026 • Ascension Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader: Haruko Sakakibara
Pianist: Janet Hill
Choir Conductor: Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader: Miyo Uchida
YES: Jack Nordman

Centering Prayer for Worship

*O God of earth and sky,
your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,
ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things.
Though he is hidden from our sight, give us faith to trust that,
as he promised, he abides with us on earth until the end of time;
By your Holy Spirit, hold the church in unity,
that the world may believe in him whom you have sent.
May we be united with Christ in faith and love and service,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
until his mercy and grace fill your whole creation. Amen.*

- From *The Daily Office: A Book of Hours for Daily Prayer*

Prelude

Janet Hill

** 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

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: Great and loving God, we praise You that Christ has ascended to join You and to rule over all.

People: We thank You that Christ alone is Lord of our lives.

Leader: By Your Spirit give us freedom to love with His love. And to embrace the world with His compassion.

All: We praise You, O Christ, the King of glory, for You live and reign as our risen Lord, now and forever.

***Opening Hymn: “All Creatures of Our God and King”**

(#455)

Sing verses 1, 2, 4, and 5.

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***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**

Haruko Sakakibara

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: “Crown Him with Many Crowns” (#151)**

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and
praise. His reign shall know no end; and round His pierced feet
fair flowers of Paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

As they met and ate meals together, he told them that they were on no account to leave Jerusalem but “must wait for what the Father promised: the promise you heard from me. John baptized in water; you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit. And soon.”

3rd Scripture Reading & Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Acts 1:6-11

“Up, Up and Away”

When they were together for the last time they asked, “Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?” Jesus told them, “You don’t get to know the time. Timing is the Father’s business. What you’ll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world.”

These were his last words. As they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! They said, “You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he left.”

Musical Interlude

Janet Hill

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.

Thou fertile earth, that day by day
Unfoldest blessings on your way,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them God’s glory also show!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And everyone of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part.
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on God cast your care!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Invitation to Confession

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: God knows the brokenness of our lives, and God listens when we share our longings and regrets. Trusting God’s grace and power to change us, let’s tell God how it is with us.

Prayer of Confession

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: Because You live in our hearts, gracious God, You know how the anger and pain and bitterness of our lives can threaten to crowd You out. The suffering of the world deafens us to Your comforting words of hope.

People: Holy Spirit, alive in us, teach us Your faithful ways. Strengthen our faith that Christ’s reign will be proclaimed in our lives as You guide our thoughts, words, and actions.

All: We pray through Christ who is head of the Church, whose body we are. Amen.

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

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: Jesus Christ came into the world so that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. From the darkness of death God has raised Jesus to the right hand of God's majesty on high.

People: As we watch and wait for Jesus' return, may we find our hope in His glory, for He is Lord forever.

All: We believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! 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

Haruko Sakakibara

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

"Jesus, Name Above All Names"

Naida Hearn

Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Children and youth may now go to YES.

*Hymn of Reflection: "He Is Exalted"

(#2070 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.

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

This first reading is recited in Japanese to honor our church founders, who established this church in 1912 in the original Japantown of Sacramento.

Psalm 47:5-7

God has ascended with a shout, the Lord, with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises for God is the King of all the earth.

2nd Scripture Reading

Haruko Sakakibara

Acts 1:1-5

Dear Theophilus, in the first volume of this book I wrote on everything that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he said good-bye to the apostles, the ones he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. After his death, he presented himself alive to them in many different settings over a period of forty days. In face-to-face meetings, he talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God.