

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
 who more than self their country loved,
 and mercy more than life!
 America! America! God mend thine every flaw;
 confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
 thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
 America! America! May God thy gold refine
 till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!



The Celebration of Worship

July 5, 2026 • Immigration Sunday

*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

Scherzo from Sonata in F major by Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

*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:	Jana Nakase-Lee, Luyan Tang
Ushers:	Jana Nakase-Lee, Irene Uno
Parking:	Gary Younglove
Sound System:	Jonathan Sakakibara
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Lori Hart
Altar Flowers:	Terri Bowman

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Worship Leader:

Jack Nordman

Pianist:

Haruko Sakakibara

Choir Conductor:

Ben Pryor

Japanese Reader:

Haruko Sakakibara

Communion Elders:

Terri Bowman, Maurine Huang

Centering Poem for Worship

The Back of the Parade

*If the progress of humanity is one valiant march into the future
 Self-confident in science and power,
 Self-assured in creed and culture,
 Striding past the need for compromise or compassion
 Then let me walk where I belong: at the very back of the parade.
 I will walk with the stragglers and the dreamers, the ones who have trouble
 keeping up, the ones who have no desire to follow,
 I will help the injured and the forgotten, the elders and the children
 And support the seekers who have lost their way.
 Our future is not in the vanguard of pride but in the midst of need.
 Our glory not in conquest but in kindness.*

- From *Spirit Wheel* by Choctaw elder and
 Episcopal priest Steven Charleston

 * Those who can, please stand

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

Call to Worship

Jack Nordman

Leader: Lord of heaven and earth, we come to worship hungry for healing, for guidance and meaning in our lives.

People: Eternal God, every day is a gift, every breath a moment to give You praise. As we worship, may we hear You in the songs and in the silence, in the Word and Sacrament, and in prayer with Your Spirit.

Leader: Lord of all, we recognize that true freedom comes through You, that our ultimate loyalty belongs to You, and that our true identity is given by You.

All: We are here to be formed into Your spiritual community, growing in Your grace and freedom. Transform us as we worship, that we may walk in Your light and bless the world with Your love. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: “From All That Dwell Below the Skies” (#229)**

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator’s praise arise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer’s name be sung through every land, in every tongue, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In every land begin the song, to every land the strains belong:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.

***Sending Hymn: “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies” (#564)**

Sing verses 1, 3, 4.

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming, here, in joy,
we keep the feast. We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing, here, in peace,
we have been led. Blest are those who from this table live their
lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

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.

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

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise
and set no more. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Invitation to Confession

Jack Nordman

Leader: When we think about our lives, we know that often we don't open ourselves to God's healing and wholeness. Our mistrust of others and ourselves show us we have a long way to go on freedom's road. Let's trust God with our deep longings and regrets.

Prayer of Confession

Jack Nordman

Leader: Faithful God, you sojourned in the desert with our ancestors in the faith, with Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Hagar and Ishmael. Now you sojourn in deserts around the world with Your children who search for a safe place to live and thrive.

People: You came to us in Jesus, a border-crossing child, whose parents sought safety. Empowered by Your compassion, help us offer support to immigrants and refugees who cross borders with hope and dreams.

All: For we remember that all people are created equal, because You, Lord created us all. Loving Creator, may our actions, laws and hearts reflect Your hospitality and generosity. 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

Jack Nordman

Leader: When we confess our sins, God takes our hard-heartedness, our burdens of regret and shame, from us.

All: We let go of them and welcome God's hope, joy, grace into our lives. 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.

Children's Message Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

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) Haruko Sakakibara

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

Leviticus 19:33-34

"When a foreigner lives with you in your land, don't take
advantage of them. Treat the foreigner the same as a native.
Love them like one of your own. Remember that you were
once foreigners in Egypt. I am God, your God."

2nd Scripture Reading

Jack Nordman

Galatians 5:13-14

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do
not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but
through love become servants to one another. For the whole
law is summed up in a single commandment,
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

3rd Scripture Reading & Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

"She Looked Back" Genesis 19:15-17, 24-26

When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Get up,
take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or else you
will be consumed in the punishment of the city." But he
lingered, so the men seized him and his wife and his two
daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and
they brought him out and left him outside the city. When they
had brought them outside, they said, "Flee for your life; do not
look back or stop anywhere in the plain; flee to the hills, or else
you will be consumed."... Then the Lord rained on Sodom and
Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven, and he
overthrew those cities and all the plain and all the inhabitants
of the cities and what grew on the ground. But Lot's wife,
behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Musical Interlude

Haruko Sakakibara

Morning Prayer by Peter I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Communion Hymn: "All Who Hunger" (#2126 black
songbook)

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come
from wilderness and wandering, here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.