

Postlude

Haruko Sakakibara

“Aria (Be Thou Near Me)” by J S Bach (1685 - 1750)

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, Sachiko Yoshikawa
Ushers: Diane Younglove, Gary Younglove
Parking: Jonathan Sakakibara
Sound System: Cathy Nishizaki
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Lori Hart
Altar Flowers: Cathy Nishizaki
in loving memory of Terry Nishizaki



The Celebration of Worship

July 26, 2026 • 9th Sunday of Pentecost

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Dave McGill
Pianist:	Haruko Sakakibara
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Aki Kumagai

Centering Prayer for Worship

*God, our passionate life,
we bless you for the infinite beauty of created things
sand, wind, wave, and the wings of the eagle,
for the love of land and people.
We bless you for the endurance of hope, for the promise of renewal,
and for fleeting moments on the mountaintop.*

*Blessed are you, God our passionate life.
But if we have forgotten those who bear the marks of exile, desert,
home upon their hands and feet and allow them to go on bleeding;
If we have dismembered the body of God, have mercy on us,
God, who brings us down to earth, ground us in justice,
root us in right relationship,
give flesh to our words and worship
with the breath and peace of your spirit
until joy is our only, holy common ground. Amen.*

*- Adapted from Maker's Blessing Prayers+Meditations
from the Iona Community*

** 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

Dave McGill

Leader: Eternal God, Your touch makes this world holy.

People: Open our eyes to see Your hands at work in the splendor of creation, and in the beauty of human life.

Leader: Help us cherish the gifts that surround us, and share Your blessings with all who accompany us on this life's journey.

All: May we reflect Christ's glory, confident of His presence in every moment, and empowered by His grace.

*Opening Hymn: "For the Beauty of the Earth" (#473)

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies:

Refrain. Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:

Refrain.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:

Refrain.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:

Refrain.

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: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" (#288)

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise; that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food; God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good. Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eyes; if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the skies!

There's not a plant or flower below but makes Thy glories known; And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne; While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care, and everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.

*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.*)

Then God was right before him, saying, “I am God, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. I’m giving the ground on which you are sleeping to you and to your descendants. Your descendants will be as the dust of the Earth; they’ll stretch from west to east and from north to south. All the families of the Earth will bless themselves in you and your descendants. Yes. I’ll stay with you, I’ll protect you wherever you go, and I’ll bring you back to this very ground. I’ll stick with you until I’ve done everything I promised you.”

Jacob woke up from his sleep. He said, “God is in this place—truly. And I didn’t even know it!” He was terrified. He whispered in awe, “Incredible. Wonderful. Holy. This is God’s House. This is the Gate of Heaven.”

Musical Interlude

Haruko Sakakibara

“Mighty Lak’s a Rose” by Ethelbert Nevin (1862 - 1901)

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**

Dave McGill

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Invitation to Confession

Dave McGill

Leader: When we offer God our confession, we join in the healing work of reconciliation. Trusting in our Partner in grace, knowing that God loves us in spite of our failures, and forgives us when we fall short, let’s make our confession.

Prayer of Confession

Dave McGill

Leader: God of compassion and justice, we confess that in America there is a huge gap between our capacity to prevent poverty and disease and violence and our will to do so.

People: Lord, we have pushed so many of our people into the tumultuous sea of life in leaky boats without survival gear. Forgive us.

Leader: Help us to offer all people the anchor of faith, the sails of education, and the oars of economic opportunity, to keep them going when life’s sea gets rough.

All: Rekindle our love, revitalize our compassion, reduce our hostility, deepen our respect, and renew our awareness of the unity we share with all beings so that we may partner with You in caring for all creation.

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

Dave McGill

Leader: God’s love is constant and true, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God.

People: With gratitude for God’s faithful mercy, we receive God’s amazing grace.

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** Dave McGill

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.

***Hymn of Reflection:** "Holy Ground" (#2272 in black songbook) *Sing 2 times.*

We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around; let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in His presence on holy ground.

1st Scripture Reading (Japanese)

Aki Kumagai

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

Ephesians 3:17, 19

"I pray that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."

2nd Scripture Reading

Dave McGill

Exodus 3:1-5

Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the west end of the wilderness and came to the mountain of God, Horeb. The angel of God appeared to him in flames of fire blazing out of the middle of a bush. He looked. The bush was blazing away but it didn't burn up.

Moses said, "What's going on here? I can't believe this! Amazing! Why doesn't the bush burn up?" God saw that he had stopped to look. God called to him from out of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He said, "Yes? I'm right here!"

God said, "Don't come any closer. Remove your sandals from your feet. You're standing on holy ground."

3rd Scripture Reading & Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

"Holy Groundedness"

Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob left Beersheba and went to Haran. He came to a certain place and camped for the night since the sun had set. He took one of the stones there, set it under his head and lay down to sleep. And he dreamed: A stairway was set on the ground and it reached all the way to the sky; angels of God were going up and going down on it.