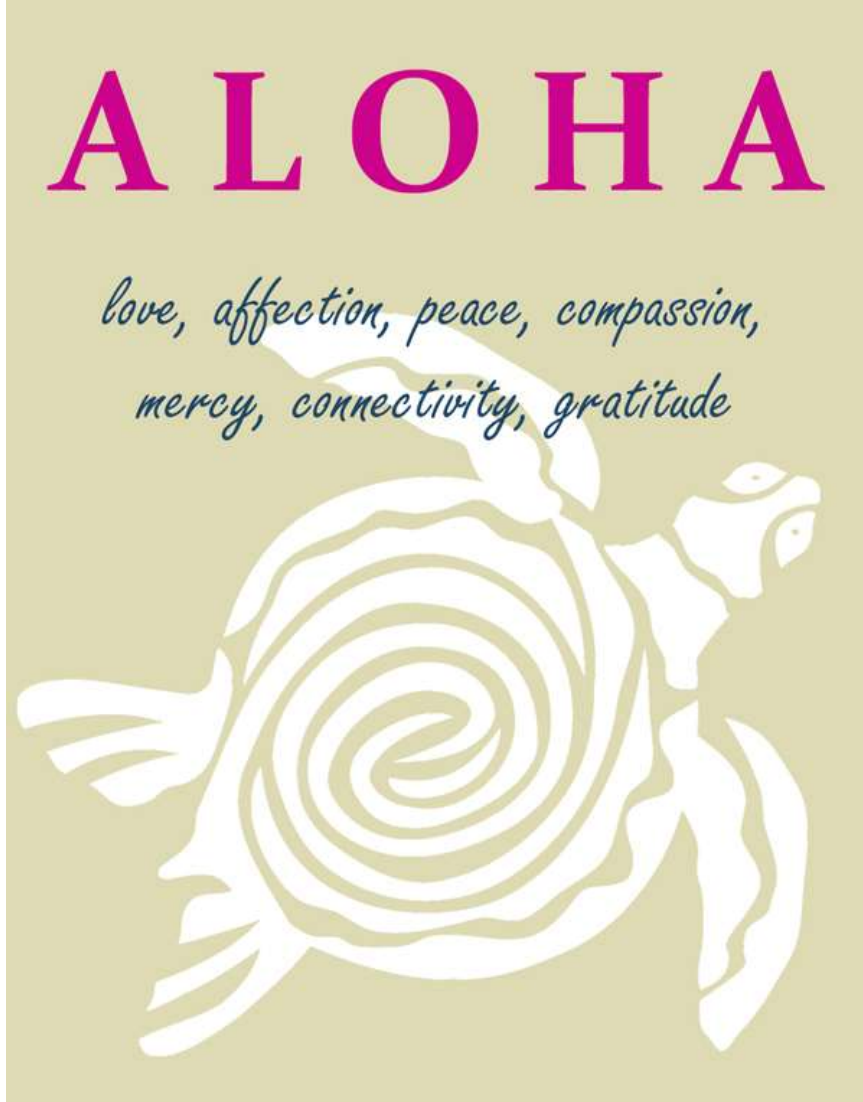




The Celebration of Worship

August 16, 2026 • Aloha Sunday

Pastor:

Worship Leader:

Pianist:

Choir Conductor:

Japanese Reader:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Phillip Chew

Haruko Sakakibara

Ben Pryor

Mieko Davis

Centering Prayer for Worship

"Joy is the simplest form of gratitude." - Karl Barth

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more... It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend." - Melody Beattie

Creator God,

You made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; As we thank You for Your gracious provision, may we cherish and respect this planet and all its inhabitants. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Phillip Chew

Leader: Let's praise God, for the joyful awakening of each dawn, announced by singing birds and the return of light to guide our steps.

People: Let's praise God, for refreshing breeze and warm sun, for the constancy of waves on the shore and the dazzling beauty of a glowing sunset.

All: We praise You, O God, our Creator, Comforter, and Redeemer, for Your abundant grace and holy presence in all the world.

*Opening Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (#464)

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee; earth and heaven reflect
Thy rays; stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Invitation to Confession

Phillip Chew

Leader: God's grace is constant and compassionate, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God. With gratitude and faith, let's bring our lives to God and ask God to forgive and transform us.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands; (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands; (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.

*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

Allegretto by John Stanley (1713 - 1786)

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:

Donna Komure-Toyama, Luyan Tang

Parking:

Jonathan Sakakibara

Sound System:

Cathy Nishizaki

Zoom Moderator/Greeter:

Aki Kumagai

Altar Flowers:

Aki & Miko Kumagai

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:** "Let All Things Now Living" (#554)

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine. We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration, a song let us raise: till all things now living unite in thanksgiving, to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

***Sending Song and Benediction** Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

"The Trees of the Field" (#2279 black songbook)

Sing twice.

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.

Leader: Holy God, too long we have traveled our own ways. We have wandered off from You and tried to earn each other's love. We have looked everywhere for a love that has already been given to us, for we are beloved by You. Forgive us.

All: Let our hearts be a sanctuary for Your Spirit; let our words and actions proclaim the Lord of Love who was broken for our wholeness. Let our lives reflect the Compassionate One we call our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. 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

Psalm 103:8,10-12 *The Message*

Leader: The Lord is kind and gracious, not easily angered and rich in love. God doesn't endlessly nag and scold, or hold grudges forever. God doesn't treat us as our sins deserve, nor pay us back in full for our wrongs.

People: As high as heaven is above the earth, so strong is God's love toward those who revere God. And as far as sunrise is from sunset, God has separated us from our sins.

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**

Phillip Chew

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: "God of the Sparrow" (#272)**

Sing verses 1, 3, 5, 6.

God of the sparrow, God of the whale,
God of the swirling stars,
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the rainbow, God of the cross,
God of the empty grave,
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the neighbor, God of the foe,
God of the pruning hook,
How does the creature say Peace
How does the creature say Life

God of the ages, God of the hand,
God of the loving heart,
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

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)

Mieko Davis

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 9:1

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."

2nd Scripture Reading

Phillip Chew

Colossians 3:17

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father every step of the way, through Him."

3rd Scripture Reading & Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

August Aloha Series: Joy Snacks - "The Joy of Mahalo"

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Musical Interlude

Haruko Sakakibara

Piano Sonata in C by W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

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**

Phillip Chew