

***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

Nancy Arata-Fong

*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:	Maurine Huang, William Yee
Ushers:	Judy Fukuman, William Yee
Parking:	Tak Fukuman
Sound System:	Cathy Nishizaki
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Aki Kumagai
Altar Flowers:	David & Nancy (Arata) Fong



The Celebration of Worship

September 13, 2026 • 16th Sunday after Pentecost

“Yes, Jesus, I want to be on your right side or your left side, not for any selfish reason, I want to be on your right or your best side, not in terms of some political kingdom or ambition, but I just want to be there in love and in justice and in truth and in commitment to others, so that we can make of this old world a new world. Amen.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Titus Toyama
Pianist:	Nancy Arata-Fong
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Michael Wright

Centering Prayer for Worship

Here we are Lord!

*We believe in your power to change us;
your creating power making relationships new,
your redeeming power saving us from despair,
your sustaining power giving us courage and strength.*

*In this time, as we encounter you and pray and listen together, we open
ourselves to the transforming power of your kingdom, changing our hearts,
our lives and our world. Amen!*

Prelude

Nancy Arata-Fong

** 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

Titus Toyama

Leader: God of the years, we come to worship You, and call on You this day. We remember the lives lost, the courage shown, and the ways our world changed on September 11.

People: We do not forget the grief, but we anchor ourselves in Your enduring comfort, and we resolve to seek peace.

All: Give us Your light and Your truth to guide us; through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of this world, and our Savior. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: “Great Is the Lord” (#2022 black songbook)**

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just;
by his power we trust in his love.

Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true;
By his mercy he proves he is love.

Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just;
by his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true;
By his mercy he proves he is love.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Titus Toyama

Joys & Concerns

Titus Toyama

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: “God of Grace and God of Glory” (#420)**

Sing verses 1, 2, 3, 5.

God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy power; crown Thine ancient church’s story; bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure Thy children’s warring madness; bend our pride to Thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss Thy kingdom’s goal, lest we miss Thy kingdom’s goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of Thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving Thee whom we adore, serving Thee whom we adore.

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

2nd Scripture Reading

Titus Toyama

Isaiah 40:3-6

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

3rd Scripture Reading & Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Fall Sermon Series: Adding Value "The Power of a Voice"

Matthew 11:2-6

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

Musical Interlude

Nancy Arata-Fong

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.

Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory!

Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.

Great are you, Lord; I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice:

Great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!

Invitation to Confession

Titus Toyama

Leader: The path to authentic renewal on our spiritual journey is through repentance. In order to become more like Jesus, we have to let the Holy Spirit show us the parts of our lives that need to be changed. Let's humbly and prayerfully bring our lives to God.

Prayer of Confession

Titus Toyama

Leader: Holy One, Divine Companion, we gather in response to Your gracious invitation. You know us so well. We long to be strong and eager to follow you, but life gets in the way.

People: At times we're worn-out and worn-down, unsure of our faith, distracted and irritable. Rather than celebrating life we give in to frustration and despair. Forgive us.

All: Please heal our brokenness. Renew us. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that we may be people who breathe new life into lifeless situations, that You may be glorified. 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

Titus Toyama

Leader: Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth we turn to You.

People: Make us Your own, Your holy people, light for the world to see.

All: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today. Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

(**from hymn “Christ, Be Our Light” by Bernadette Farrell)

***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** Titus Toyama
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
Blessing of the Backpacks

***Hymn of Reflection:** “Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness” “Christ, Be Our Light” (#314 Glory to God hymnal)
Sing verses 1, 2, 3, and 5
Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

Refrain.
Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Refrain.
Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

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

John 3:17
God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.