

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:	Maria Mar
Ushers:	Maria Mar, Cathy Nishizaki
Parking:	Phillip Chew
Sound System:	Liam Wright
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Judy Yee
Altar Flowers:	Ben Pryor & Kishwer Vikaaas
Coffee Time:	Lori Hart, Jana Nakase Lee, Lois Van Beers



Stay after worship service for a presentation on Sacramento's Japantown by Karen Tsugawa.



The Celebration of Worship

September 20, 2026 • 17th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Centering Prayer for Worship

Inhabit our hearts, God of history, as You once inhabited human flesh. Be here among us with all of Your wisdom, all of Your power, all of Your mercy, all of Your love, that we might learn to be like God from our God who came to be like us. Holy are You. Holy are we who are one with You forever. Amen.

- Miriam Therese Winter

Prelude

Janet Hill

*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

** Those who can, please stand*

Leader: Breath of God, breath of life, breath of deepest yearning.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: Comforter, Disturber, Teacher, Entuser;

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: Heavenly Friend, Revealer of truth, Midwife of change.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: The Lord is here. God's Spirit is with us!

All: We worship You, Almighty God, with grateful praise!

***Opening Hymn: "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" (# 482)**

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in
what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before
Him! Let the amen sound from His people again;
gladly for aye we adore Him.

Invitation to Confession

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: As we draw near to God in confession, let's ask God to bring to mind the many times and many ways we messed up because we didn't listen to God, or ask for God's guidance; because we were in a hurry, or we just wanted to do it our way.

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: #276 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not; Thy compassions they fail not; As Thou hast been thou forever will be.

Refrain. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand has provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Refrain.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain.

***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.*)

3rd Scripture Reading & Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Fall Sermon Series: Adding Value “Memory”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them to your children and talk about them when you sit in your house and when you are away, and when you lie down and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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.

*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

Prayer of Confession

Haruko Sakakibara

Leader: O God of Comfort and Justice, forgive the suffering we have caused others: the thoughtless comments or harsh words that, once spoken, cannot be taken back;

People: And the self-indulgence that ignores real need, and the harm we wish upon our enemies.

Leader: Forgive us, too, for blaming You for the evil we could have avoided or prevented.

People: Guide us to an understanding of You, not as the source of our troubles, but as “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

All: In Your mercy, help us remain attentive to Your voice, as You call us to care for each other and live in loving companionship with You.

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: Our Eternal God, Whose mercies are fresh every morning, and Whose grace amazes us into joy; loves us with an everlasting love.

People: May we live deeply aware of the strength of God’s mercy, so that through our lives others will come to know God’s grace, healing power, and love.

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**

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

“Down to the Water to Pray”

Arr. by Pepper Choplin

Children’s Message

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

***Hymn of Reflection: “Grace Alone” (#2162 black songbook)**

Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,
every difference we will make is only by his grace.

Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,
every blessing left behind is only by his grace.

Refrain. Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he
will provide. Christ in us our Cornerstone; we will go forth in
grace alone.

Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach,
everywhere we share his peace is only by his grace.

Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away, every
sorrow turned to praise is only by his grace.

Refrain.

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 89:1

“I will sing of the lovingkindness of the Lord forever; To all
generations I will make known Your faithfulness. I’ll never quit
telling the story of Your love.”

2nd Scripture Reading

Haruko Sakakibara

Philippians 2:1-5, 9-15

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from
love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and
sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having
the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do
nothing from selfishness or conceit, but with humility regard
others as more important than yourselves; do not merely look
out for your own interests, but also for the interests of others.
Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,.
He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of
death—even death on a cross. For this reason, God highly
exalted Him, and gave Him the name that is above every other
name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in
heaven and on earth, and under the earth, and every tongue will
confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the
Father...

Do all things without grumbling or arguing, so that you may
be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in
the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you
shine like stars in the world.