

***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.)*

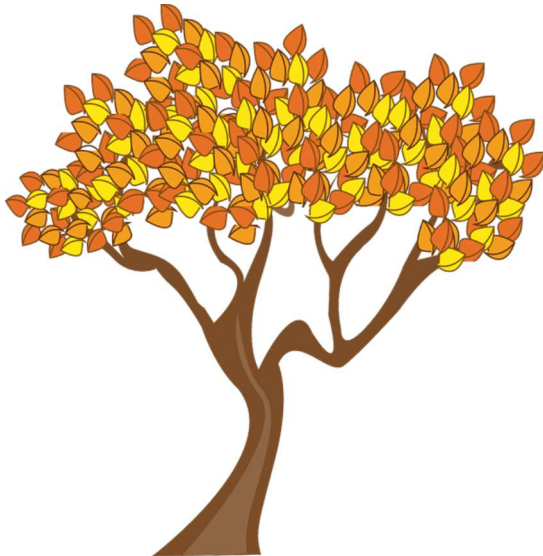
Postlude

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:	Ian Davis, Mieko Davis
Ushers:	Aki Kumagai, Miko Kumagai
Parking:	Russ Hart
Sound System:	Dave McGill
Zoom Moderator/Greeter:	Lori Hart
Altar Flowers:	Tak & Judy Fukuman



The Celebration of Worship

September 27, 2026 • 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Steve Hanway
Pianist:	Janet Hill
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Miyo Uchida
YES:	Cathy Nishizaki, Luyan Tang

Centering Prayer for Worship

Glorious Creator,

As the days become cooler and the leaves of summer begin to wear their fall colors, we are reminded of the many ways You interact with the world to meet so many needs. The cycle of life goes on, and You call us to partner with You as caretakers of the earth because we are made in Your image. What an awesome privilege and responsibility! Guided by Your Spirit, help us partner with You in faithfully caring for creation and all that You have made.

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.

** Those who can, please stand*

Call to Worship

Steve Hanway

Leader: God has given us this beautiful earth and all that grows, swims, and runs upon it, and flies above it.

People: God has given us breath to live and a spirit to rejoice.

Leader: God has gathered us into a community of worship, friendship and service.

All: We bring God our love and longing, thanks and praise.

***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.

For Thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above, offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love,

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: “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” (#343)**

Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace, We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend, Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring, Christ’s clear call to work and worth, let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth. Men and women, richer, poorer, all God’s people, young and old, blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission, in a small or global sense, Help us bear each other’s burdens, breaking down each wall or fence. Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care, bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life that surround each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife. Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase, messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

3rd Scripture Reading & Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Fall Sermon Series: Adding Value: “A Welcoming Presence”

Acts 16:11-15

Luke writes: The next day we tied up at New City and walked from there to Philippi, the main city in that part of Macedonia and, even more importantly, a Roman colony. We lingered there several days. On the Sabbath, we left the city and went down along the river where we had heard there was to be a prayer meeting. We took our place with the women who had gathered there and talked with them. One woman, Lydia, was from Thyatira and a dealer in expensive textiles, known to be a God-fearing woman. As she listened with intensity to what was being said, the Lord gave her a trusting heart—and she believed! After she was baptized, along with everyone in her household, she said in a surge of hospitality, “If you’re confident that I’m in this with you and believe in the Master truly, come home with me and be my guests.” We hesitated, but she wouldn’t take no for an answer.

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

Steve Hanway

Invitation to Confession

Steve Hanway

Leader: In turning from the stress that fills our lives with anxiety, we find that God comes into the overwhelmed areas of our lives to speak love into our fears and failings. Let’s turn to God in prayer.

Prayer of Confession

Steve Hanway

Leader: Gracious Maker of all, forgive us when we’re too preoccupied to notice Your presence in our lives and in the world;

People: When we dash through our days and fail to see Your wonders all around us;

Leader: When we set aside time for prayer as well as wonder, we meet Your Spirit who is at our side in every moment.

All: Forgive us. Mend us. Transform us. Increase our life-changing impact on the world as we grow in grace and reliance upon on Your Spirit.

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

Steve Hanway

Leader: By God’s amazing grace, God’s Spirit is with us and in us, bringing comfort, courage and healing hope enough to share.

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**

Steve Hanway

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:** "The Summons" (#2130 black songbook)

Sing verses 1,2,4,5.

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world
around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you
in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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.

Hebrews 13:2

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it!"

2nd Scripture Reading

Steve Hanway

Deuteronomy 10:14-21

from *The Message* Bible translation

Look around you: Everything you see is God's—the heavens above and beyond, the Earth, and everything on it. But it was your ancestors who God fell in love with; God picked their children—that's you!—out of all the other peoples. That's where we are right now. So cut away the thick calluses from your heart and stop being so willfully hardheaded.

God, your God, is the God of all gods, the Lord of Lords, a God immense and powerful and awesome. God doesn't play favorites, takes no bribes, makes sure orphans and widows are treated fairly, takes loving care of foreigners by seeing that they get food and clothing. You must treat foreigners with the same loving care—remember, you were once foreigners in Egypt. Reverently respect God, your God, serve and hold tight to God, back up your promises with the authority of God's name. God's your praise! The Lord is your God!

God did all these tremendous, these staggering things that you saw with your own eyes.