

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – NOT PRIDE SUNDAY THAT I AM AWARE OF!  
June 28, 2026 – 10:30A

## **Order of Worship**

### **The Community Gathers**

Lighting of Altar Candles

Prelude – *Instrumental*

A Word of Greeting/Centering Words

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

*In Christ Jesus, all are welcome here. Welcome, people of God!*

Opening Hymn – “Crown Him with Many Crowns” UMH#327, v.1,4

### **Giving God Glory As We Come to Worship**

Call to Worship – (L: Leader, P: People)

[Cheryl Nakata]

*L: When the Lord seems far away,*

**P: may we place our faith in God.**

*L: When God's face is hidden from us,*

**P: may we put our trust in God's steadfast love.**

*L: When our souls bear the pain of earthly trials,*

**P: may we seek God's strength, lest we break.**

*L: Let us place our trust in God's goodness and mercy.*

**P: Our hearts rejoice in God's salvation.**

Opening Prayer

[Cheryl Nakata]

*God of pain and suffering, embrace us in our need. As we enter this house of worship, you know our deepest needs, and you help us embrace our sincerest hopes. Live in us this day, and quicken our spirits, that we may rise above the storms that threaten to overcome us. We ask this the name of the one who came to bring us abundant life. Amen.*

A Message to the Children (In Us All)

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

Asian American HS Camp (AC) & Junior High Camp (JHC) Commissioning [Rev. Allison Mark]

### **The Word of God for the People of God**

Scripture Lesson: Nehemiah 2:1-20

[Cheryl Nakata]

<sup>1</sup> In the month of Nisan,<sup>[a]</sup> in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, the king was about to be served wine. I took the wine and gave it to the king. Since I had never seemed sad in his presence,<sup>2</sup> the king asked me, “Why do you seem sad? Since you aren’t sick, you must have a broken heart!”

I was very afraid <sup>3</sup> and replied, “May the king live forever! Why shouldn’t I seem sad when the city, the place of my family’s graves, is in ruins and its gates destroyed by fire?”

<sup>4</sup>The king asked, “What is it that you need?”

I prayed to the God of heaven <sup>5</sup> and replied, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, please send me to Judah, to the city of my family’s graves so that I may rebuild it.”

<sup>6</sup>With the queen sitting beside him, the king asked me, “How long will you be away and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me, and I told him how long I would be gone.

<sup>7</sup>I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may letters be given me addressed to the governors of the province Beyond the River to allow me to travel to Judah. <sup>8</sup>May the king also issue a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king’s forest, directing him to supply me with timber for the beams of the temple fortress gates, for the city wall, and for the house in which I will live.”

The king gave me what I asked, for the gracious power of my God was with me.

## **Inspecting Jerusalem**

<sup>9</sup>So I went to the governors of the province<sup>[b]</sup> Beyond the River and gave them the king’s letters. The king had sent officers of the army and cavalry with me.

<sup>10</sup>When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard this, they were very angry that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

<sup>11</sup>When I reached Jerusalem and had been there for three days, <sup>12</sup>I set out at night, taking only a few people with me. I didn’t tell anyone what my God was prompting me to do for Jerusalem, and the only animal I took was the one I rode. <sup>13</sup>I went out by night through the Valley Gate past the Dragon’s Spring to the Dung Gate so that I could inspect the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down, as well as its gates, which had been destroyed by fire.

<sup>14</sup>Then I went on to the Spring Gate and to the King’s Pool. Since there was no room for the animal on which I was riding to pass, <sup>15</sup>I went up by way of the valley by night and inspected the wall. Then I turned back and returned by entering through the Valley Gate.

## **Let’s rebuild**

<sup>16</sup> The officials didn't know where I had gone or what I was doing. I hadn't yet told the Jews, the priests, the officials, the officers, or the rest who were to do the work. <sup>17</sup> So I said to them, "You see the trouble that we're in: Jerusalem is in ruins, and its gates are destroyed by fire! Come, let's rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we won't continue to be in disgrace." <sup>18</sup> I told them that my God had taken care of me, and also told them what the king had said to me.

"Let's start rebuilding!" they said, and they eagerly began the work. <sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>19</sup> But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and made fun of us. "What are you doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"

<sup>20</sup> "The God of heaven will give us success!" I replied. "As God's servants, we will start building. But you will have no share, right, or claim in Jerusalem."

L: The word of God for all People.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music – "Abide in Me"

[Faith Choir]

Sermon - "Choose Your Own Adventure: Origin Stories - NEHEMIAH"

[Rev. Allison Mark]

Pastoral Prayer – Lord's Prayer

[Rev. Allison Mark]

### **We Respond to God's Grace**

Offering our Gifts

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

Offertory – "El Shaddai" UMH#123

Doxology – "Glory Be to the Father" UMH#71

Prayer of Dedication

[Cheryl Nakata]

*Bountiful God, when we come to you with nothing, you provide us with the offering. When life's demands threaten to overwhelm us, you spare us the deadly cost. In tribute and thanks for your manifold blessings, we offer you what we have in certain hope of your abiding love. Amen.*

### **Going Forth in God's Holy Name**

Faith in Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

Closing Hymn – "God Bless America" (repeat chorus)

Commission and Blessings

[Rev. Allison Mark]

## Passing of the Peace – Postlude