

12th Sunday after Pentecost – Japan Mission Reflection Sunday

August 16, 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]

Today we gather in the presence of a God whose mercy is greater than the boundaries we create and whose grace continues to reach toward us and through us. Whatever this week has held—joy or disappointment, reconciliation or division, certainty or questions—there is room for you here. There is room for your whole heart in the presence of God. So, as we prepare ourselves for worship, may we release the distractions we carried through the doors. May we open our hearts to one another, open our ears to God's Word, and open our lives to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. Come, let us worship God together.

Opening Hymn – UMH#98 To God Be the Glory

Giving God Glory As We Come to Worship

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

[Gary Nakata]

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when God's people dwell together in unity!

People: *We come together as one body, gathered by the grace of God.*

Leader: When relationships are broken, God calls us toward reconciliation.

People: *When walls divide us, God invites us to make room.*

Leader: When we believe someone is beyond the reach of grace, God reminds us that mercy knows no boundaries.

People: *God's gifts and God's calling are rooted in faithful love.*

Leader: So come, people of God. Bring your joys, your burdens, your questions, and your hope.

People: *We come with open hearts, ready to worship and ready to receive God's grace.*

All: *Let us worship the God of mercy, reconciliation, and abundant love!*

Opening Prayer

[Gary Nakata]

Gracious and loving God – You gather us from different places, different experiences, and different walks of life, and you call us one family in you. As we worship today, soften the places in our hearts that have grown hard. Heal the wounds that keep us separated from one another. Give us courage to seek reconciliation where relationships have been broken and humility to recognize the boundaries we have placed around your grace. Like Joseph, teach us that forgiveness can open the door to a new beginning. Like the woman who cried out to Jesus, give us a faith that persists even when the way seems difficult. Open our eyes to recognize your grace in unexpected people and unexpected places. Open our ears to hear your voice. And open our hearts so widely that there is room for everyone you call beloved. May everything we say, sing, pray, and do in this time of worship draw us closer to you and closer to one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

A Message to the Children (In Us All)

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

The Word of God for the People of God

Scripture Lesson: 2 Corinthians 2:15; Philippians 4:13

[Gary Nakata]

2 Corinthians 2:15

¹⁵For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing:

Philippians 4:13

¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

L: The word of God for all People.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Japan Mission Testimony"

[Ryuko Funakoshi & Cheryl Nakata]

Slideshow: 2 minutes

Pastoral Prayer – Lord's Prayer

[Rev. Allison Mark]

We Respond to God's Grace

Offering our Gifts –

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

Doxology – Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, UMH#95

Prayer of Dedication

[Gary Nakata]

Generous and merciful God – Everything we have comes first from you. Receive these gifts as an expression of our gratitude and our desire to participate in the work of your kingdom. Take what we offer—our financial gifts, our time, our abilities, and our lives—and use them to bring hope where there is despair, healing where there is hurt, reconciliation where there is division, and welcome where someone has been left outside. May our generosity reflect the generosity of your grace, and may these gifts become instruments of your love in our church, our community, and our world. We dedicate them, and ourselves, to your service. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Going Forth in God's Holy Name

Faith in Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC

[Minister 'Ainise Isama'u]

Closing Hymn UMH #133 "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

Commission and Blessings

[Rev. Allison Mark]

Passing of the Peace – Postlude