



LAKE MERRITT

United Methodist Church

Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.

(510) 465-4793 www.lakemerrittumc.org
1255 First Avenue Oakland, CA 94606

The red light in the sanctuary represents the light of peace.

LIVE-STREAM WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us as we worship in spirit through our live-streamed worship celebration via Zoom and Facebook Live. Visit our website for connection instructions.



photo by Sue Dickey

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Sunday, March 22, 2020
4rd Sunday of Lent
Celebration of Divine Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor

MOMENT OF SILENCE *Let us prepare our hearts and minds in silence to worship God.*

OPENING PRAYER

ISOLATION

poem by Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

*Yes there is isolation
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
Through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.*

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
To touch across the empty square,
Sing.

OPENING SONG

How Great Thou Art Joan Miller, Music Director

UMH 77

*O Lord my God!
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;*

*[Refrain]
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

*And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"*

Refrain

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:7-8; Romans 15:13

“Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door is opened.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

HOMILY

Living In The Season

Rev. Pamela Kurtz

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer requests previously sent to Rev. Pam will be lifted up.

When the pastor says "Lord," the people respond: "Hear Our Prayer."

PASSING THE PEACE

CLOSING SONG

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

UMH 344

*Lord, You have come to the lakeshore
Looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones
You only asked me to follow humbly*

[Refrain]

*O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me
And while smiling have spoken my name
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me
By Your side I will seek other seas*

*You know so well my possessions
My boat carries no gold and no weapons
You will find there, my nets and labor*

Refrain

*You need my hands full of caring
Through my labors to give others rest
And constant love that keeps on loving*

Refrain

*You, who have fished other oceans
Ever longed for by souls who are waiting
My loving friend, as thus You call me*

Refrain

GRATITUDE TIMES – *Pastor Pam will share gratitudes previously sent to her.*

BENEDICTION