



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.



Joan Miller, Music Director
music@lakemerrittumc.org

Neil Wade, Church Administrator
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Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor
ext. 303
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Sunday, April 19, 2020
2nd Sunday of Easter
Celebration of Divine Worship

WELCOME

Tom Huetteman, Guest Laity

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

OPENING PRAYER [*Responsive*]

ONE: All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

MANY: You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

by Pope Francis

OPENING SONG

Morning Has Broken

Joan Miller, Music Director

Morning has broken like the first morning

Blackbird has spoken like the first bird

Praise for the singing

Praise for the morning

Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven

Like the first dewfall on the first grass

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden

Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

*Mine is the sunlight
Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning
God's recreation of the new day*

*Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world*

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 34:17-19; Colossians 1:15-20

The Message

“And as for you, my dear flock, I’m stepping in and judging between one sheep and another, between rams and goats. Aren’t you satisfied to feed in good pasture without taking over the whole place? Can’t you be satisfied to drink from the clear stream without muddying the water with your feet? Why do the rest of my sheep have to make do with grass that’s trampled down and water that’s been muddied?

We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—*everything* got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he’s there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

HOMILY **“Our Christian Calling to Care for the Earth”**

Tom Huetteman, Guest Laity

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Tom will lift up prayer requests previously sent to her.

*When the pastor says “Lord,” the people respond: “**Hear Our Prayer.**”*

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

INVITATION & PRAYER OVER OFFERINGS

Please prepare your checks for mailing, or cash for drop off at the church office while our Music Director leads us in our Thanksgiving Song.

THANKSGIVING SONG **What A Mighty God We Serve** W&S 3016

What a mighty God we serve!

What a mighty God we serve!

Angels bow before you,

Heaven and earth adore you!

What a mighty God we serve!

[Repeat]

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Pamela Kurtz

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Go to your windows now, open them, and with joyful noise proclaim,
“Peace be with you all!” then come back!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & SHARING HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG **Come to the Table of Grace (Peace, Love, Joy)**

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

GRATITUDE TIMES *Gratitudes previously sent to Rev. Pam will be shared.*

Laurel Williams

CLOSING SONG **For the Beauty of the Earth**

1. *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:

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

2. *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]

3. *For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,*

[Refrain]

4. *For yourself, best gift divine, to the world so freely given,
agent of God's grand design: peace on earth and joy in heaven*

[Refrain]

BENEDICTION

Tom Huetteman

All raise hand, palm facing outward and wave goodbye.

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