



# LAKE MERRITT

## United Methodist Church

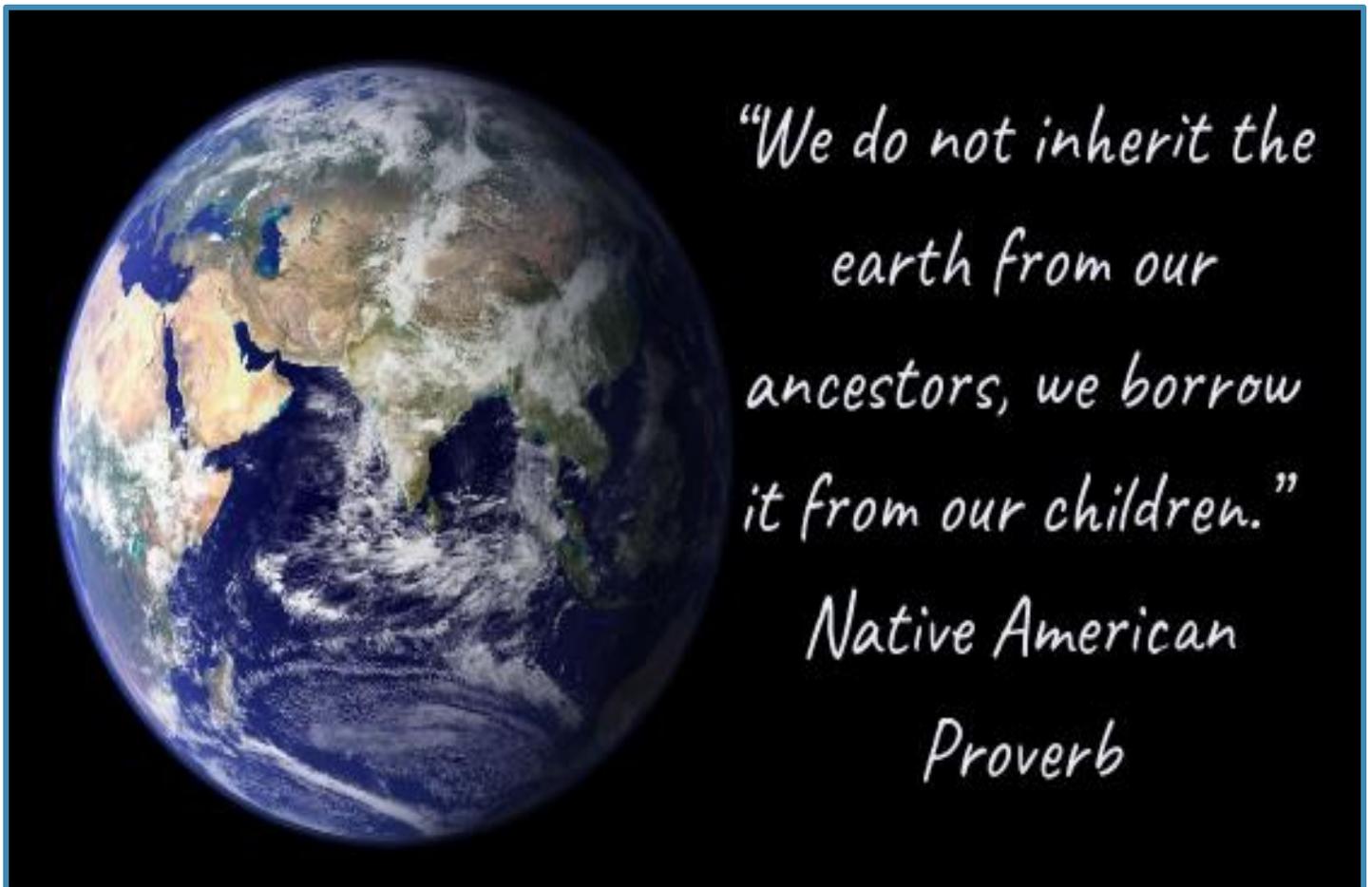
*Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.*

(510) 465-4793      [www.lakemerrittumc.org](http://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.*



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Sunday, April 26, 2020  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
*Celebration of Divine Worship*

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*Today, we celebrate the gifts, contributions and ministries given by and with Native Americans to our Church and society. A special offering will be collected via Vanco through our website, will support Native American outreach within annual conferences and across the United States and provide seminary scholarships for Native Americans.*

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor

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

OPENING PRAYER [*Responsive*]

“Litany of Creation”

ONE: In the beginning, all was darkness and God said, “let there be light,  
MANY: **and because God had said it, there was light.**

In the beginning, all was silence and God sang the song of creation,  
**and because God sang, all the stars and spheres vibrated to the music of God.**

In the beginning, all was still and God laughed,  
**and because God laughed, the waters took up the roar and the ripple of it; and ebbed and flowed and seeped and swirled and delighted in the ways of its being.**

In the beginning, all was dull, and God painted,  
**and because God painted, the sky became blue, and purple, and pink, and rainbows hung there. The grass became green and flowers and butterflies danced in the drips and settled like jewels on the earth.**

In the beginning, all was unconscious, and God breathed,  
**and because God breathed, men and women woke up from their sleeping, they breathed of the very life of God and stood in wonder before the work of God’s hands. They beheld the glory of God in all that God had made and they saw that it was very good.**

*from “Colouring the World,” a service prepared by the Wellsprings community.*

OPENING SONG

**I Am Your Mother (Earth Prayer)**

TFWS 2059

*to the tune of “Morning Has Broken”*

Joan Miller, Music Director

*I am your mother: Do not neglect me! Children, protect me – I need your trust; my breath is your breath, my death is your death, ashes to ashes, dust into dust.*

*I am your nurture: Do not destroy me! Love and enjoy me, savor my fruit; my good is your good, my food is your food, water and flower, branches and root.*

*I am your lodging: Do not abuse me! Tenderly use me, soothing my scars; my health is your health, my wealth is your wealth, shining with promise, set among stars.*

*God is our maker: Do not deny God, challenge, defy God, threaten this place; life is to cherish, - care, or we perish! I am your mother, - tears on my face.*

## READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 24:4-13

*The Good News*

Margaret LeWright & Laurel Williams

*The earth dries up and withers; the whole world grows weak; both earth and sky decay. The people have defiled the earth by breaking God`s laws and by violating the covenant he made to last forever. So God has pronounced a curse on the earth. Its people are paying for what they have done. Fewer and fewer remain alive.*

***The people will wake up to God`s call to care for the earth.***

*The grapevines wither, and wine is becoming scarce. Everyone who was once happy is now sad, and the joyful music of their harps and drums has ceased. There is no more happy singing over wine; no one enjoys its taste anymore.*

***The people will hear God`s call to care for the earth.***

*In the city everything is in chaos, and people lock themselves in their houses for safety. People shout in the streets because there is no more wine. Happiness is gone forever; it has been banished from the land.*

***And the people will respond to God`s call to care for the earth.***

*The city is in ruins, and its gates have been broken down. This is what will happen in every nation all over the world. It will be like the end of harvest, when the olives have been beaten off every tree and the last grapes picked from the vines.*

***And the people will go forth to care for the earth.***

## HOMILY

### “Creation’s God”

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor

## CHEROKEE INVOCATION/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Pam 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

Sherri Elinson

**Our beautiful blue and green home is an awesome, awesome gift. Yet we trade clean air for the power of convenience, clean water for easy waste disposal, and wilderness for elbowroom. We marvel more at our inventions than over your creations. Share your wisdom and teach us how to protect the best, and restore the rest of your rivers and mountains, seas and prairies, wetlands and forests. Guide us in living sustainably, being satisfied that “enough” is enough of a feast, and not consuming more than we need. Guide us to repair and replace your Very Good: our habitat, climate, and food web. Send your spirit over the waters again; stir us to action, justice, and wise choices. We pray we can be a part of bringing back creation to glory and peace. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Pam

In Revelation, we hear of a new heaven and new earth. Every tear will be wiped away, and God will make all things new. This day, you are made new! In Jesus' name, you are forgiven! **Amen.**

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      **God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale**      UMH 122

*God of the sparrow*

*God of the whale*

*God of the swirling stars*

*How does the creature say Awe*

*How does the creature say Praise*

*God of the earthquake*

*God of the storm*

*God of the trumpet blast*

*How does the creature cry Woe*

*How does the creature cry Save*

*God of the rainbow*

*God of the cross*

*God of the empty grave*

*How does the creature say Grace*

*How does the creature say Thanks*

*God of the hungry*

*God of the sick*

*God of the prodigal*

*How does the creature say Care*

*How does the creature say Life*

*God of the neighbor*

*God of the foe*

*God of the pruning hook*

*How does the creature say Love*

*How does the creature say Peace*

*God of the ages*

*God near at hand*

*God of the loving heart*

*How do your children say Joy*

*How do your children say Home*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Pam

*All raise hand, palm facing outward and wave goodbye.*