



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
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Neil Wade, Church Administrator
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Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor
ext. 303
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Sunday, May 3, 2020
4th Sunday of Easter
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 [*Responsive*]

(Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24)

ONE: Day by day, God leads us:

MANY: **to the deep, deep pools of peace,
to the green, lush lawns of grace.**

Day by day, Jesus calls us:

**to pour out ourselves in service,
to anoint the stranger with hope.**

Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:

**the community we could be,
the family we are called to become.**

— written by Thom Shuman on *Lectionary Liturgies*.

OPENING SONG

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

UMH 334

Joan Miller, Music Director

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face, And I know that it's the presence of the Lord
Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived, when we shall leave this place.*

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:42-47

Laurel Williams

*The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community,
to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone.
God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers
were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and
possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day,
they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with
gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to
everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.*

HOMILY

“Community of Believers”

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor

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.

You are the Great Provider, the Giver of all gifts;
your love the only true currency.
Thank you for putting money into our hands,
and so we freely offer it back to you, for use in your service.
We do this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

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

God of Compassion and Community, in these times, we can too easily get caught up in our own small community – our households, our neighborhood, our church people. You remind us that Your community includes everyone, for you know everyone, even as we do not. Forgive us when we prefer to hang out with those whom we know and who are most like us. Remind us to reach out our hands and our smiling eyes to the stranger, to the lonely. Remind us to hear the voices of diversity, of confusion, of anger, of justice and of love, for all are the voices of your community. In Jesus' name, we pray.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Pam

God made us to be in community, to reach beyond ourselves and expand our understanding of who we are to invite and be with in relationship. Know that you are forgiven. Receive the greatest gift of community, the Bread of Life and the Cup of Forgiveness. **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

There’s Room for Everyone

Written by: Margaret LeWright

Refrain:

God made room at the table for everyone, there’s room for everyone.

- 1) *The sinner is welcome to come, come, yes, you are welcome to come.
The doubter is welcome to come, come, there’s room for everyone.*

[Refrain]

God made room at the table for everyone, there’s room for everyone.

- 2) *The unseen are welcome to come, come, yes, you are welcome to come.
The unheard are welcome to come, come, there’s room for everyone.*

[Refrain]

God made room at the table for everyone, there’s room for everyone.

- 3) *The curios are welcome to come, come, yes, you are welcome to come.
The imperfect are welcome to come, come, there’s room for everyone.*

[Refrain]

God made room at the table for everyone, there’s room for everyone.

- 4) *The outsider is welcome to come, come, yes, you are welcome to come.
The misunderstood are welcome to come, come, there’s room for everyone.*

[Refrain]

God made room at the table for everyone, there’s room for everyone.

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

Margaret LeWright

CLOSING SONG

In the Midst of New Dimensions

TFWS 2238

*In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways. who will lead the pilgrim
peoples wandering in their separate ways?*

Refrain:

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, we your people, ours
the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

*Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair, who will lift the olive
branches? who will light the flame of care?*

[Refrain]

As we stand a world divided by our own self- seeking schemes, grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams.

[Refrain]

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young, each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.

[Refrain]

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain, may your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.

[Refrain]

BENEDICTION

Rev. Pam

All raise hand, palm facing outward and wave goodbye.