



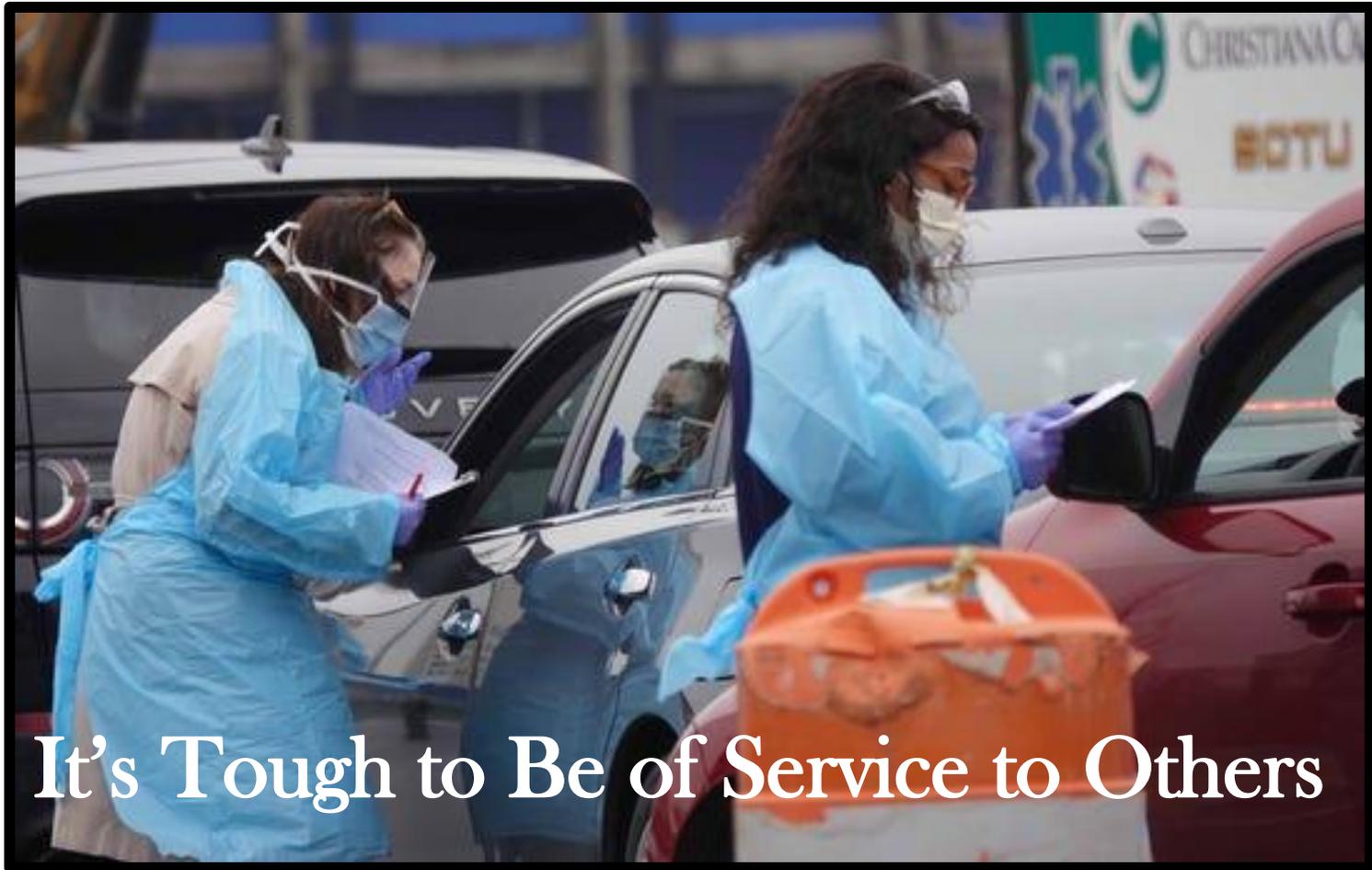
Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.

(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.



It's Tough to Be of Service to Others

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Sunday, May 10, 2020
5th 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*]

Nancy & Avery McClymonds

“Discovery”

ONE: I cannot invent new things

MANY: **Like the airships which sail on silver wings;**

But today a wonderful thought was given.

And the thought was this:

That a secret plan is hid in my hand;

That my hand is big,

Big, because of this plan.

That God, who dwells in my hand, knows this secret plan

Of the things They will do for the world

Using my hand.

– by Toyohiko Kagawa; adapted as a Call to Worship

OPENING SONG

Womb of Life

TFWS 2046

(Sung to 87.87 D Beecher: [“Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling”])

Joan Miller, Music Director

*Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart,
in your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start.
We, your children, gather 'round you, at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories tears and laughter, we are nurtured by your care.*

*Word in flesh, our brother Jesus, born to bring us second birth,
you have come to stand beside us, knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human struggles, Life of Life, and Death of Death,
Risen Christ, come stand among us, send the Spirit by your breath.*

*Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend.
When our mem'ry fails remind us, whose we are, what we intend.
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world made new,
ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you.*

*Mother, Brother, holy Partner; Father, Spirit, Only Son:
we would praise your name forever, one-in-three, and three-in-one.
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new,
ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you.*

READING OF SCRIPTURE Acts 7:55-60 Nancy McClymonds

But Stephen, enabled by the Holy Spirit, stared into heaven and saw God's majesty and Jesus standing at God's right side. He exclaimed, "Look! I can see heaven on display and the Human One[a] standing at God's right side!" At this, they shrieked and covered their ears. Together, they charged at him, threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses placed their coats in the care of a young man named Saul. As they battered him with stones, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, accept my life!" Falling to his knees, he shouted, "Lord, don't hold this sin against them!" Then he died.

HOMILY **"It's Tough to Be of Service to Others"**

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.

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 [*Responsive*] Rev. Pam & Laurel Williams

ONE: If we say we are completely put together, the truth is not in us.

ALL: **But if we confess our distractions, our errors, and our anxieties, God will meet us and renew us. Before God and God's people, I confess**

that I have been reluctant to speak out clearly, naming the injustice I see and declaring God's vision.

Before God and one another, we confess our reluctance to receive our calling as God's people, made by God and chosen as witnesses to God's dream of justice and joy.

Remind me, God, that you have made me for your service and recharge me with your Word.

Renew us, God. Grant us courage to live out your Way of peace and grace. We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Pam

My Dear Siblings, Here the Good News: God has promised that whenever we repent and seek a new union with God, forgiveness is ours. That promise comes true now. Sisters and brothers, know that in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*~ (adapt.) listed on the United Church of Christ's **Worship Ways Archive.**
<http://www.ucc.org/>*

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

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR MOTHER'S AND MOTHER FIGURES

Joan Miller, a "Kentucky Woman"

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

Margaret LeWright

CLOSING SONG

Guide My Feet, Lord

TFWS 2208

Dan Strauss, Song Leader

1. Guide my feet while I run this race.

Guide my feet while I run this race.

Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

2. Hold my hand while I run this race.

Hold my hand while I run this race.

Hold my hand while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

3. Stand by me while I run this race.

Stand by me while I run this race.

Stand by me while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

4. I'm your child while I run this race.

I'm your child while I run this race.

I'm your child while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

5. Search my heart while I run this race.

Search my heart while I run this race.

Search my heart while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

6. Guide my feet while I run this race.

Guide my feet while I run this race.

Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

BENEDICTION

Rev. Pam

All raise hand, palm facing outward and wave goodbye.