



# LAKE MERRITT

## United Methodist Church

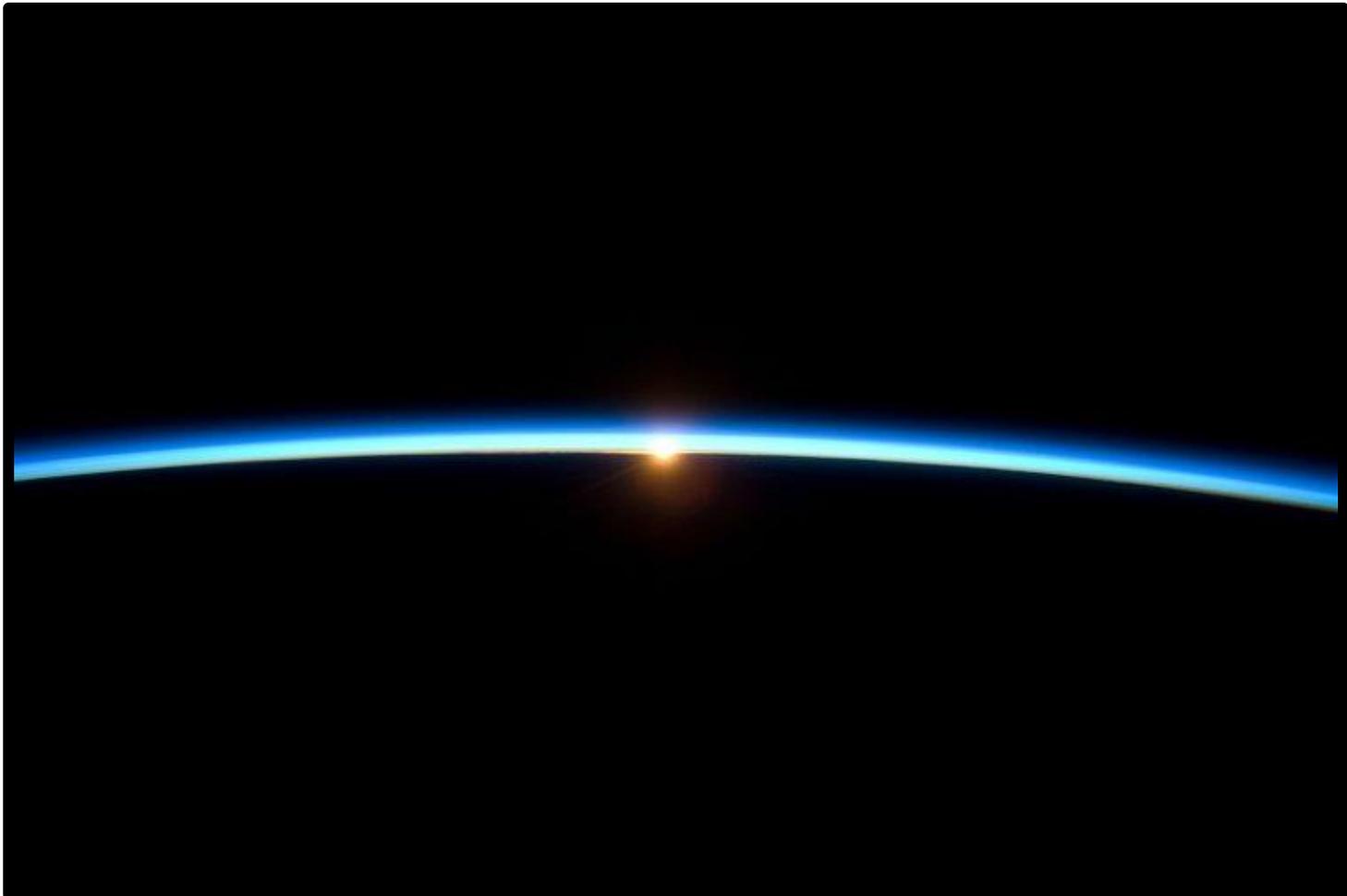
*Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.*

(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.*



*Joan Miller, Music Director*  
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Sunday, May 17, 2020  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
*Celebration of Divine Worship*

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WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor

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

OPENING PRAYER [*Responsive*]

Juliet Hannafin & Tom Huetteman

ONE: God's light shines in unexpected places  
Where the veil between earth and heaven has thinned.

MANY: **We have seen it in friend and stranger.**

We have seen it in darkness and light.

**We have heard it in laughter and fun.**

We have heard it in memories and song.

ALL: *Let it make the spirit soar within us and take flight.*

*Let it guide us through the day,*

And lead us through the night.

**Let it shine for all to see,**

*and bring us life.*

*by Christine Sine*

OPENING SONG

**Lean On Me // Imagine**

Joan Miller, Music Director

*Sometimes in our lives we all have pain*

*We all have sorrow*

*But if we are wise*

*We know that there's always tomorrow*

*Please swallow your pride*

*If I have things you need to borrow*

*For no one can fill those of your needs*

*That you won't let show*

*Lean on me, when you're not strong*

*And I'll be your friend*

*I'll help you carry on*

*For it won't be long*

*'Til I'm gonna need*

*Somebody to lean on*

*You just call on me brother, when you need a hand  
We all need somebody to lean on  
I just might have a problem that you'll understand  
We all need somebody to lean on  
Lean on me, when you're not strong  
And I'll be your friend  
I'll help you carry on  
For it won't be long  
'Til I'm gonna need  
Somebody to lean on*

*You just call on me brother, when you need a hand  
We all need somebody to lean on  
I just might have a problem that you'll understand  
We all need somebody to lean on  
If there is a load you have to bear  
That you can't carry  
I'm right up the road  
I'll share your load*

*If you just call me (call me)  
If you need a friend (call me) call me uh huh (call me) if you need a friend (call  
me)  
If you ever need a friend (call me)  
Call me (call me) call me (call me) call me  
(Call me) call me (call me) if you need a friend  
(Call me) call me (call me) call me (call me) call me (call me) call me (call  
me)....*

W&M: Bill Withers

*Imagine there's no heaven It's easy if you try  
No hell below us Above us only sky  
Imagine all the people living for today  
Imagine there's no countries It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for And no religion too  
Imagine all the people living life in peace, you  
You may say I'm a dreamer But I'm not the only one  
I hope some day you'll join us And the world will be as one*

Imagine no possessions I wonder if you can  
No need for greed or hunger A brotherhood of man  
Imagine all the people sharing all the world, you  
You may say I'm a dreamer But I'm not the only one  
I hope some day you'll join us And the world will be as one

W&M: John Lennon

## READING OF SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-31

Margaret LeWright

*On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. They were prevented from recognizing him.*

*He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" They stopped their faces downcast.*

*The one named Cleopas replied, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?"*

*He said to them, "What things?"*

*They said to him, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. But there's more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning and didn't find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn't see him."*

*Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.*

*When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening, and the day is almost over." So, he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight.*

## HOMILY

### **"The Thin Space"**

Rev. Mike Friedrich, Deacon

## 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    *(based on Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-35)*

Juliet & Tom

O Jesus Christ, sometimes we are so busy talking with each other that we fail to find you beside us. We walk on, so focused on our questions that we do not create the silent spaces which would allow you to speak with us and enlighten our journeying.

*Silent reflection*

Stay with us, Jesus Christ. Reach out towards us and invite us to pause and meet with you, we pray. As we look at our lives and that of the world around us, we are sometimes too anxious to share our real questions or our doubts and fears. We keep them within us in troubled silence.

*Silent reflection*

Stay with us, Jesus Christ.

Reach out towards us

and invite us to pause and meet with you, we pray.

We call your name, O Christ,

and hope to discover you here

in our community of vulnerable faith. Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Pam

Whether we believe it, or not, Jesus Christ never leaves us nor forsakes us. Let us open our hearts to receive the grace which Christ brings to us in faithfulness. We are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

— *from Words for Worship. Posted on the <http://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/> website.*

## 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

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

Sherri Elinson

## CLOSING SONG

### **Amazing Grace**

Neil Wade, Song Leader

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a soul like mine!  
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;  
He will my Shield and Portion be, As long as life endures.*

*Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil, A life of joy and peace.*

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below, Will be forever mine.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.*

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Pam

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