



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.



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Sunday, May 31, 2020
Day of Pentecost
Celebration of Divine Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor

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

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive*] Margaret LeWright & Sherri Elinson

ONE: The work of the church is essential.

MANY: **The work of caring for the lonely, the marginalized, and the oppressed is essential.**

The work of speaking truth to power and seeking justice is essential.

The work of being a loving, liberating, and life-giving presence in the world is essential.

The work of welcoming the stranger, the refugee and the undocumented is essential.

The work of reconciliation and healing and caring is essential.

The church does not need to "open" because the church never "closed".

We who make up the Body of Christ, the church, love God and our neighbors and ourselves so much that we will stay away from our buildings until it is safe.

We are the church.

– by: Dion K. Johnson,
Bishop-Elect of the Episcopal
Church in the Diocese of
Missouri

OPENING SONG

Wa Wa Emimimo

Joan Miller & Neil Wade, Song Leaders

ENGLISH:

Come, O Holy Spirit, come.

(Holy Spirit, come.)

Come, Almighty Spirit, come

(Almighty Spirit, come.)

Come, come, come

(O Spirit, come.)

YORUBAN – from Nigeria

Wa wa wa Emimimo.

(Emiolye.)
Wa wa wa Alagbaram
(Alagbarameta.)
Wao, wao, wao.
(Emimimo.)

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1-21 (Joel 2:28-32)

Rev. Pam & Laurel Williams

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!” They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?” Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young will see visions.
Your elders will dream dreams.
Even upon my servants, men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.*

*The sun will be changed into darkness,
and the moon will be changed into blood,
before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.
And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

MESSAGE

Power of the Purpose

Rev. Staci Current, DS Bay District, UMC

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

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Sherri Elinson

Loving God, we know that in every generation you call forth prophets to proclaim your word. We give you thanks that you are still speaking even today. Your Spirit inspires the young to see visions of a new creation and elders to dream of a time not yet known.

Forgive us when we do not use the power of the Holy Spirit for purpose of God. Forgive us that we hold back from being your witnesses to the goodness you have bestowed upon the world and selectively share it. Call us to be the bold offspring that our ancestors made way for and of with they dreamed.

~ written by Rev. Christopher Ney, in *Prophecy, Dreams and Visions: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost.* (adapt.)

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

My Friends, The Spirit you have received is not a spirit of fear pushing you back into a life of drudgery, but a Spirit of love.

Amen! Where the Spirit is, there is liberty.

Be happy! You are a forgiven family to whom the gifts of heaven have been promised and on whom the first installment has been poured.

Thanks be to God!

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.*

CLOSING SONG

In The Midst of New Dimensions

Joan Miller & Congregants, Song Leaders

1. 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.*

2. Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair, Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?
3. As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes, Grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams
4. 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.
5. Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain, May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Pam

All raise hand, palm facing outward and wave goodbye.