



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

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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, August 2, 2020
9th Sunday after Pentecost
Celebration of Divine Worship

We welcome our guests today, especially those from Twin Towers UMC, Alameda. If you have a prayer that you would like Pastor Pam to share, please write a 'chat' during our worship and she will lift up your prayers.

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Through It All

by: Andre Crouch

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive*]: **“A Blessing of the Masks”**

By: Rev. Elizabeth McCord

Sue Dickey & Andrew Champion

ONE: Holy One,
bless our masks.

MANY: **May we place them on our faces prayerfully,
grateful for our bodies
and for the breath that fills the fabric.**

May we remove them mindfully,
thankful for human connection
and for the gift of today’s interactions.

May our masks make life more meaningful.

May they enliven our senses,
reminding us to listen with compassion
and speak with humility.

**May they draw us together,
inspiring respect for one another
and enabling mutual care.**

May our masks move us to treasure this day:

**the smiles that draw the cloth closer,
the laughter that pulls the elastic tighter,**

**the tenderness of our faces
that reflects the tenderness of our hearts.**

Holy One,
bless our masks and all they have to teach us.

**Help us find joy and purpose in this new practice,
and lead us toward a day of wholeness
when our faces may shine freely in your Presence.**

Amen.

OPENING SONG **Breath on Me, Breath of God** (UMH 420)
Joan Miller, Song Leader

- 1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.*
- 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.*
- 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.*
- 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.*

READING OF SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:1-2, 11, 26-31 (CEB)
Sue Dickey & Andrew Champion

*Comfort, comfort my people! says your God.
Speak compassionately to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended,
that her penalty has been paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins!
Like a shepherd, God will tend the flock;
he will gather lambs in his arms and lift them onto his lap.
He will gently guide the nursing ewes.
Look up at the sky and consider:
Who created these?
The one who brings out their attendants one by one, summoning each of
them by name.*

*Because of God's great strength and mighty power, not one is missing.
Why do you say, Jacob, and declare, Israel,*

*"My way is hidden from the Lord, my God ignores my predicament"?
Don't you know? Haven't you heard?*

*The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth.
He doesn't grow tired or weary. His understanding is beyond human
reach,
giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted.
Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble;
but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength;
they will fly up on wings like eagles;
they will run and not be tired;
they will walk and not be weary.*

MESSAGE

“Living in Exile: Living in the Mask”

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.**”*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**We invite you to use any other name to refer to the Divine with which you are comfortable ~ God, Father, Mother, Creator, etc.*

***Our *Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.***

Amen.

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

On Eagle's Wings

UMH 143

***And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.***

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & RESOLVE *Our Little Lives* by Howard Thurman
Sue Dickey

***Our little lives, our big problems—these we place upon Your altar!
The quietness in Your temple of silence again and again rebuffs us:
For some there is no discipline to hold them steady in the waiting,
And the minds reject the noiseless invasion of Your spirit.
For some there is no will to offer what is central in the thoughts—
The confusion is so manifest, there is no starting place to take hold.
For some the evils of the world tear down all concentrations
And scatter the focus of the high resolves.
We do not know how to do what we know to do.
We do not know how to be what we know to be.
Our little lives, our big problems—these we place upon Your altar!
Pour out upon us whatever our spirits need of shock, of life, of release
That we may find strength for these days—
Courage and hope for tomorrow.
In confidence we rest in Your sustaining grace
Which makes possible triumph in defeat, gain in loss, and love in hate.
We rejoice this day to say:
Our little lives, our big problems—these we place upon Your altar!***

SILENT PRAYER FOR CONFESSION & HOPE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News: When we lift our whole beings to God for comfort, healing and transformation, we are redeemed, reformed and renewed. Know that you are forgiven through Christ Jesus. 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

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

CLOSING SONG

How Great Thou Art

UMH 77

*O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

*Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

*When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.*

*Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;

*Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.*

*Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

*When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"*

*Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Pam

All raise hand, palm facing outward and wave goodbye.