



*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

## **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.*



I had crossed de line of which I had  
so long been dreaming. I was free;  
but dere was no one to welcome me  
to de land of freedom, I was a  
stranger in a strange land.

— Harriet Tubman —



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Sunday, August 16, 2020  
11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
*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.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Through It All*

by: Andre Crouch

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive*]: *The New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus (1883)  
read by Virginia Turner & Henry Almea

**Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.**

**“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she  
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”**

OPENING SONG

**We Are Called**

*TFWS 2172*

*1. Come! live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the  
city of God!*

**[Refrain]:**

***We are called to act with justice. We are called to love tenderly.  
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.***

2. *Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless, so all hatred and blindness  
will be no more!*

***We are called to act with justice. We are called to love tenderly.  
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.***

3. *Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers  
united in love!*

***We are called to act with justice. We are called to love tenderly.  
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.***

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 30:1-11a (CEB)

Henry Almea

Jeremiah received the Lord's word: The Lord, the God of Israel, proclaims: Write down in a scroll all the words I have spoken to you. The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will bring back my people Israel and Judah from captivity, says the Lord. I will bring them home to the land that I gave to their ancestors, and they will possess it. Here are the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah:

The Lord proclaims:

I hear screams of panic and terror; no one is safe.

Ask and see: Can men bear children?

Then why do I see every man bent over in pain, as if he's in labor?

Why have all turned pale?

That day is awful, beyond words.

A time of unspeakable pain for my people Jacob.

But they will be delivered from it.

At that time, I will break the yoke off their[d] necks and remove their[e] shackles. Foreigners will no longer enslave them, declares the Lord of heavenly forces. They will serve the Lord their God and the king whom I will raise up for them from David's family.

So don't be afraid, my servant Jacob, declares the Lord,  
Don't lose hope, Israel.

I will deliver you from faraway places and your children from the land of their exile.

My people Jacob will again be safe and sound, with no one harassing them.

I am with you and will rescue you, declares the Lord.

I will put an end to all the nations where I have scattered you.

But I won't put an end to you.

MESSAGE

**“Living in Exile: Being Separated”**

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

Virginia Turner

*Beth Merrill Neel, Presbyterian Pastor, Portland, OR.; [www.HoldFastToWhatIsGood.com](http://www.HoldFastToWhatIsGood.com)*

***Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life:  
Hear our prayer.***

***There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us  
From one another and from You.***

***We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,  
For fear of admitting our part in the separation,  
For fear of being rejected when we reach out.***

***You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships,  
To a wholeness with each other and with You.***

***Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations  
Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.***

SILENT PRAYER FOR CONFESSION & HOPE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's life-giving Word and Spirit enable us to live in a new obedience, the breath of the Spirit empowers us to live beyond our fears opening new possibilities of life for ourselves and the world.

Thanks be to God for the Good News: In Christ Jesus, we are all forgiven.

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.*

1. *For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,*

***and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!***

2. *For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair, (short interlude)*

3. *For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong,*

***and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!***

4. *For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live,*

***(short interlude)***

5. *For gay and for straight, a place at the table, a covenant shared, a welcoming space,  
a rainbow of race and gender and colour, for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace,*

***and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!***

*6. For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and  
simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the  
right to be free,*

***and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!***

BENEDICTION

Rev. Pam

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