



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
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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 23, 2020
12th Sunday after 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.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Through It All

by: Andre Crouch

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive*]: ***Liminal Time*** Rev. Beth Merrill Neel, Presbyterian
Pastor, Portland, OR.; www.HoldFastToWhatIsGood.com

They say this will all be over,

Sooner or later

That this won't last forever

That this is a temporary, though difficult, time

A passing phase

A passing pandemic

But isn't all time temporary, passing phases,

Passing minutes, hours, days, seasons, years?

Isn't time just a human construct

A way to measure – what?

Our productivity? Our greatness? Our failures to act?

This is liminal time, time on the edge

Time of misstepping and falling off the cliff

My time is now unbound

I do not know what day it is, or what I'm supposed to be doing

**A friend suggested waking up every day and while getting out of bed shouting
the day and date, just to keep ourselves grounded**

They say that to offset a panic attack you should be very present

Notice what you see, smell, hear, taste, feel

Ground yourself in the immediate now.

Isn't that what we are supposed to do all the time anyway?

Be present? Notice?

This is what it is, right now, in this moment

What it will be in the next moment, we cannot know

Look: the crocuses are up.

Smell: the neighbor is burning trash again.

Listen: that bird keeps singing the same song, over and over again.

Taste: coffee lingers on the tongue.

Feel: the skin on my wrists is so dry.

Breathe.

This too shall pass, as all things do.

OPENING SONG

Through It All

UMH 507

*Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to trust in Jesus,
I've learned to trust in God.
Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to depend upon His Word.*

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 130:1-7a (MSG)

Margaret LeWright

Help, God—the bottom has fallen out of my life!

Master, hear my cry for help!

Listen hard! Open your ears!

Listen to my cries for mercy.

If you, God, kept records on wrongdoings,
who would stand a chance?

As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit,
and that's why you're worshiped.

I pray to God—my life a prayer—
and wait for what he'll say and do.

My life's on the line before God, my Lord,
waiting and watching till morning,
waiting and watching till morning.

O Israel, wait and watch for God—
with God's arrival comes love

MESSAGE

“Living in Exile: Living Within the Walls”

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

Laurel Williams

by Rev. John Wesley Oldham, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

We pray to **God who some call Mystery,
Beyond all definition, that
When in the midst of uncertainty
- may we know **faith**.
When in the midst of anxiety
- may we know **serenity**.**

When in the midst of stress

- may we know **calm.**

When in the midst of fear

- may we know **trust.**

When in the midst of bewilderment

- may we know **assurance.**

When in the midst of confusion

- may we know **confidence.**

When in the midst of pandemic

- may we know **peace.**

When in the midst of whatever

- may we know **love.**

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION & HOPE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear this Good News: God's comfort, courage and life-giving hope is always present. Those who lean into God's assurances know the joy of the forgiveness God gives unendingly. Thanks be to God.

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

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

UMH 133

*1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

[Refrain]:

***Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.***

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;

O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

(Refrain)

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?

I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.

(Refrain)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Pam

All raise hand, palm facing outward and wave goodbye.