



LAKE MERRITT

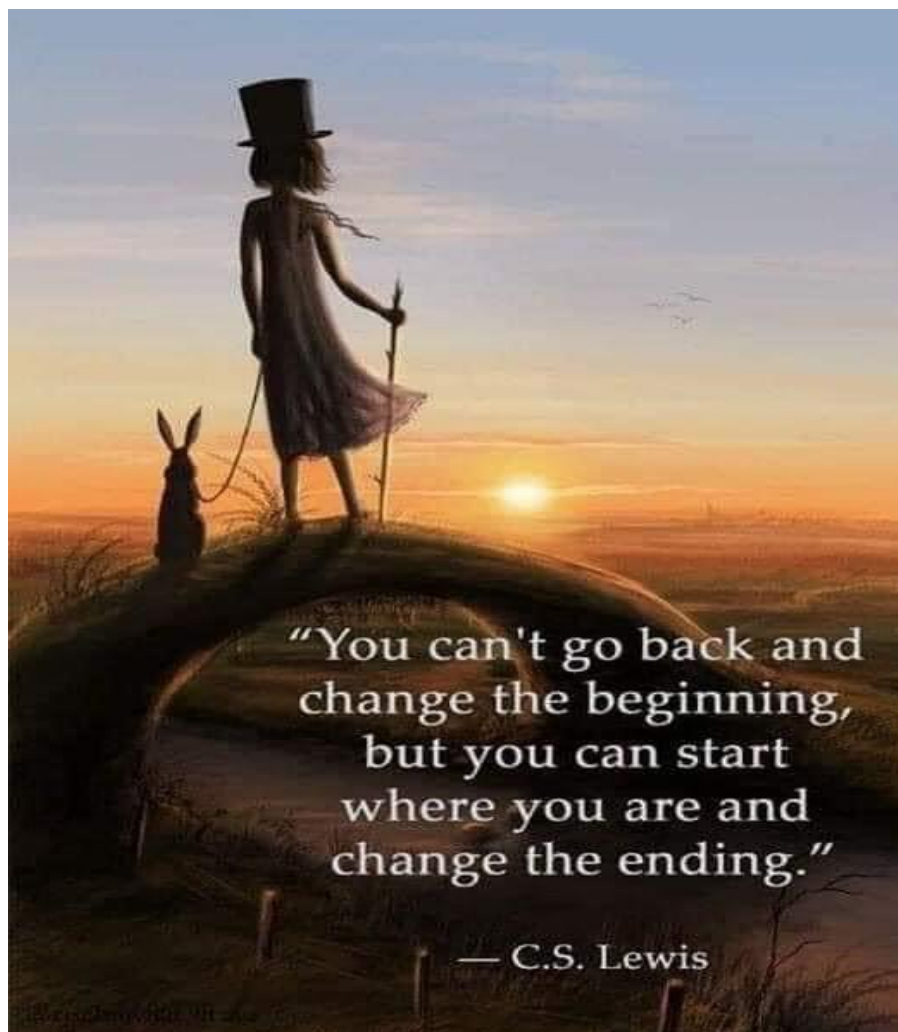
United Methodist Church

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
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.



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Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor
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Sunday, August 30, 2020
13th 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*]: **HEALING AFTER PAIN** by Vivian T. Pomeroy
read by: Phyllis Elving & Satu Sheriff

O God our undying hope, we thank You for the warmth which steals back into our hearts after a while; for the healing which comes to wounded bodies and spirits through time;

for the blessed fact that the flood of pain does not last forever and for the incredible bliss when the tide begins to ebb;

for the cheerfulness which breaks into our dark dungeon and strikes off our fetters when least expected, we know not how;

for the strange sadness which haunts our brightest hours because our hearts are made for a joy deeper than happiness;

for the insurgent courage which lifts its head above past mistakes and worse, and affirms its right to try again;

for the golden thread of valor and good will never quite lost in the tragic wanderings of men and nations;

for the labors of those who have sown that others may reap;

for the dear kindness of those who see us as we once were.

We thank You, God of our little faith, our greater hope, and above all our faltering love, which can never fail because it is more Yours than ours.

OPENING SONG

In His Time

TFWS 2203

*In his time, in his time
He makes all things beautiful
In his time
Lord please show me everyday*

*As you're teaching me your way
That you do just what you say
In your time*

*In your time, in your time
You make all things beautiful
In your time*

*Lord my life to you I bring
May each song I have to sing
Be to you a lovely thing
In your time*

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Esther 9:20-23

Mordecai wrote these things down and sent letters to all the Jews in all the provinces, both near and far, of King Ahasuerus. He made it a rule that Jews keep the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as special days each and every year. They are the days on which the Jews finally put to rest the troubles with their enemies. The month is the one when everything turned around for them from sadness to joy, and from sad, loud crying to a holiday. They are to make them days of feasts and joyous events, days to send food gifts to each other and money gifts to the poor. The Jews agreed to continue what they had already begun to do—just what Mordecai had written to them.

MESSAGE

“Living in Exile: When Hope Means the Most”

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

- from Cristina Dinoto,
Evangelical Methodist Church of Argentina

**Lord of Life Abundant,
do not let us fall into the temptation to believe that fear leads our
lives.**

**Do not let us believe that your Spirit of Love and Power left us
aside and adrift.**

**Do not let us fall into the temptation to close ourselves in on us
and believe that there are only grey mornings with drops of despair,
and anguish and desolation.**

**Do not let us fall into the temptation to believe that virus
contamination can outweigh your strength, power and mercy.**

**Do not let us believe that we are paralyzed, without courage,
afraid to fail in the way of your Gospel for not finding a word of
encouragement to lead the discouraged.**

**Lead us Lord to the clear path, to the diaphanous and divine
light that comes from your presence,**

that gives us unity and brings us together to encourage our lives and tells us, over and over again, “DO NOT BE AFRAID.”

Have mercy, Lord! And lead us not into temptation. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION & HOPE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear these words: God turns our fear into faith and our doubts into strength and courage, leading us onto the clear path of hope and mercy. God hears the prayer of faith. Be confident as we pray for one another, for God heals us and forgives us.

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

*1. 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.*

[Refrain]:

***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!***

2. 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!***

*3. 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!*

***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!***

*4. 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!***

*5. 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.