

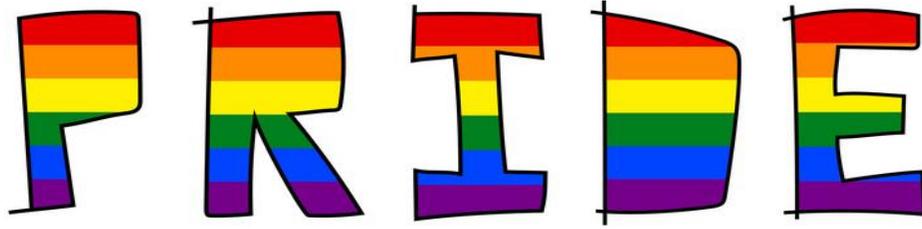


**LAKE MERRITT**  
United Methodist Church

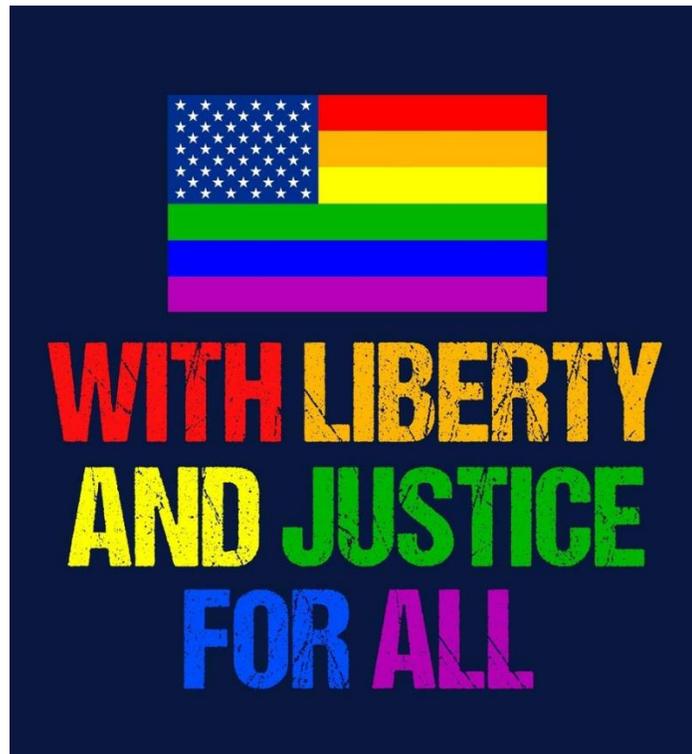
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**LIVE-STREAM WORSHIP SERVICE**



*3-week Worship Series: "The Legacy of Persistent Faith and Justice"*



*"LGTBQ+ Justice in a Divided World"*

Deacon Alyss Swanson

***Guest Preacher***

Sunday, September 20, 2020  
16<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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive*]:

Imaginative and vibrant God, creator of all things.  
You made this planet and all its variety.

**Let us celebrate the diversity of the colours of the world.**

With red, yellow and orange, we praise and give thanks.

**For the warmth of your love, shared between all your children.**

**For the energy of the Holy Spirit that powers us forward in service to you.**

**For the joy of being accepted by you, just as we are.**

With green, blue and violet, we worship and honour you.

**For the softness of your caring and grace.**

**For the stillness of prayer when we draw close to you.**

**For the peace of knowing you hold us in your loving embrace.**

Imaginative and vibrant God, creator of each of us.

**You made us the way we are; a diverse blend of all your colours.**

**Help us love and celebrate each other, as part of your beloved creation.**

OPENING SONG

**Praise the Source of All Creation**

*(sung in the tune "Ode to Joy")*

*1) Praise the Source of all creation, giving life throughout the Earth,*

*blessing every love relation, filling all with sacred worth.*

*Celebrate all forms and colors, varied beauty everywhere,*

*streams of goodness overflowing, wondrous gifts for all to share.*

*2) Many genders, many races, all reflect Divinity;  
many gifts and many graces help us be all we can be.  
Partners on this path of freedom, taking down each stifling wall,  
we will open doors of welcome, bringing hope and joy to all.*

*3) Long have many been excluded, judged and scorned by  
custom's norms;  
everyone will be included as we work to bring reforms.  
Let us end abuse and violence, bringing justice everywhere,  
joining Holy Wisdom's mission, helping all be free and fair.*

*4) Equal marriage, healing, freeing, nurtures body, mind and  
soul,  
reaffirming every being, all created good and whole.  
Come, rejoice and sing together, celebrating life and love;  
praise the great Creative Spirit, living in us and above.*

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READING OF SCRIPTURE

Amos 5:11-15 (CEB)

Truly, because you crush the weak,  
and because you tax their grain,  
you have built houses of carved stone,  
but you won't live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you won't drink their wine.

I know how many are your crimes,  
and how numerous are your sins—  
afflicting the righteous,  
taking money on the side,  
turning away the poor who seek help.

Therefore, the one who is wise will keep silent in that time;  
it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the Lord, the God of heavenly forces,  
will be with you just as you have said.  
Hate evil, love good,  
and establish justice at the city gate.  
Perhaps the Lord God of heavenly forces  
will be gracious to what is left of Joseph.

MESSAGE            **“PRIDE: The Legacy of Persistent Faith and Justice”**  
***LGBTQ+ Justice in a Divided World***  
Deacon Alyss Swanson, Campbell, CA

SPECIAL MUSIC                    ***True Colors***                    by: B. Steinberg & T. Kelly  
Dan Strauss, *Soloist*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE                    Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor of LMUMC  
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.*

*We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.  
We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.  
And we offer up to you the sacrifices of thanksgiving.  
And we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy.*

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION &amp; RESOLVE

**Wondrous God, lover of lion and lizard, cedar and cactus, raindrop and river, we praise You for the splendor of the world! We thank You, that woven throughout the tapestry of earth are the varied threads of human diversity. Created in Your image, we are of many colors and cultures, ages and classes, gender and sexual identities. Different and alike, we are Your beloved people. Free us, we pray, from fears of difference that divide and wound us. Move us to dismantle our attitudes and systems of prejudice. Renew our commitment to make this a household of faith for all people - gay, bisexual, lesbian, transgender, and straight - that all who worship and minister here may know the grace and challenge of faith. In our life together, grant us minds and hearts eager to learn, reluctant to judge, and responsive to the leading of Your loving Spirit. We ask in Christ's name, Amen.**

By Rev. Ann B. Day, Program Coordinator, Open and Affirming Program  
of the UCC Coalition for LGBTQ Concerns, 1987-2007

## SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION &amp; HOPE

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News Sisters and Brothers: God hears our acknowledgment of our shortcomings in creating full and open space for all God's children. God receives us with open arms and grants us the fullness of grace and forgiveness. Give thanks to God.

**We are forgiven in Christ Jesus. 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 & HOLY COMMUNION

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

CLOSING SONG                    **The Light Comes As A Rainbow**                    by: Amanda Udis-Kessler  
Joan Miller, *Music Director*

*1) The light comes as a rainbow, infusing us with colors,  
Assuring us of welcome, a covenant of care.  
The rainbow fills horizons, surrounding us with beauty  
Reminding us to honor the love that's always there.*

*2) The light lives in our bodies, inspiring us to wonder,  
Inviting us to passion, a covenant of joy.  
The rainbow is a present, a gift to all creation  
A promise from the holy to bless and not destroy.*

*3) The light grows in our healing. It draws us to each other.  
It helps us to imagine a covenant of peace.  
The rainbow is a model of difference in relation.  
Apart and yet together, the colors never cease.*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Pam

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

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- i. Alyss Swanson is a deacon in the United Methodist Church. She is currently appointed to serve as a pastoral psychotherapist at Process Therapy Institute (PTI), a non-profit mental health agency in Campbell. Alyss also works at El Camino and Valley Medical hospitals as a volunteer chaplain as well as DreamPower Horsemanship in Gilroy where she provides Equine and Animal Assisted Therapies. Alyss is currently working on her Doctor of Ministry at Claremont School of Theology where she is directed towards the advancement of reconciliation within the church and the LGBTQ+ community. Prior to entering the mental health field some 8 years ago, Alyss worked as a software/systems engineer at various semiconductor equipment companies in the Bay Area. Alyss is a Viet Nam era Navy veteran.