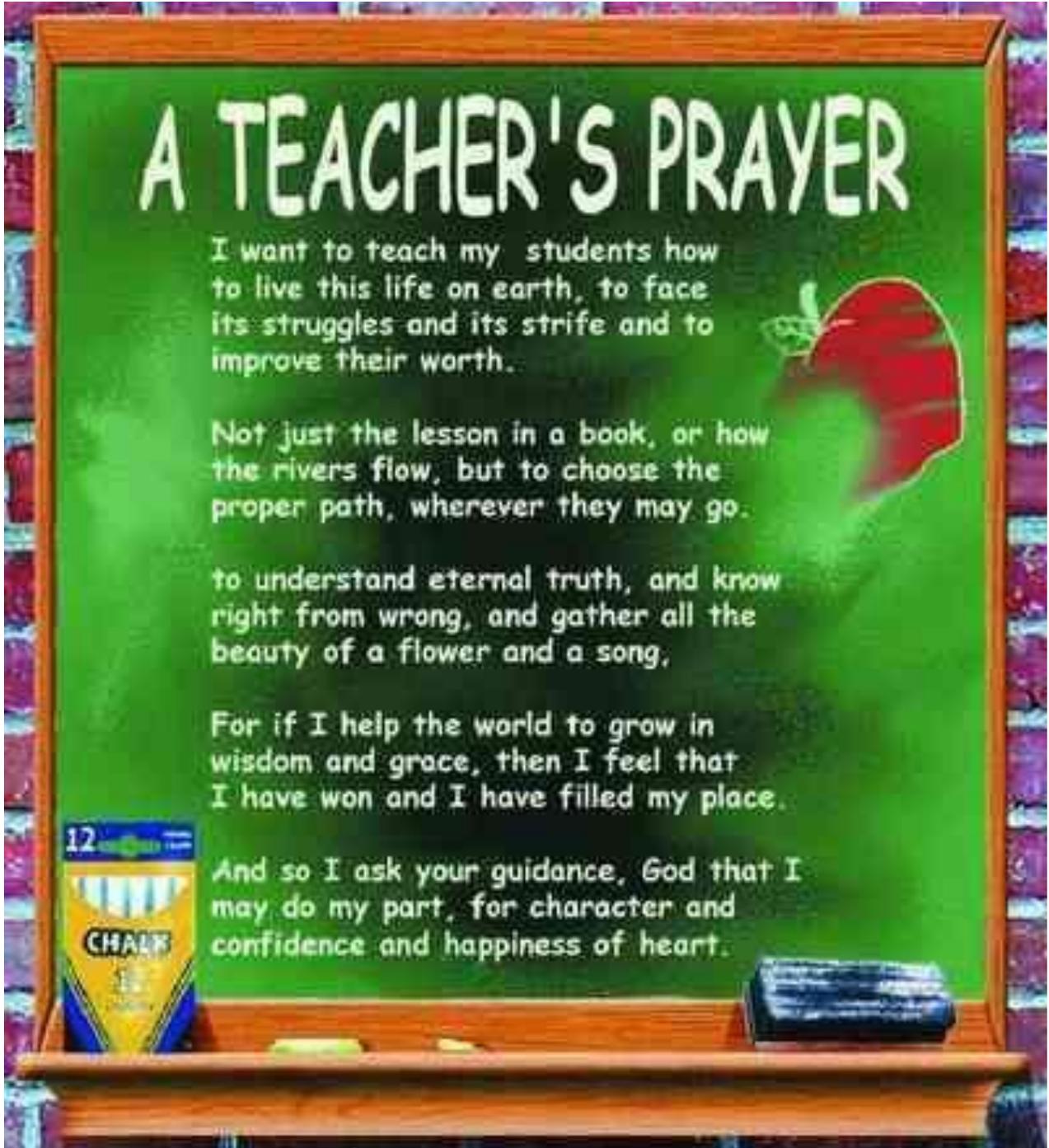




Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.

(510) 465-4793 www.lakemerrittumc.org
1255 First Avenue Oakland, CA 94606

LIVE-STREAM WORSHIP SERVICE



RALLY SUNDAY in COVID-19

Sunday, September 27, 2020
17th 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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive*]: **A BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER**

Bless the school year ahead -

**fill it with compassion for those making difficult decisions,
comfort to parents wondering how to manage home, work, and
school,
and strength to teachers navigating new ways of learning.**

Bless the school year ahead -

**reminding us to see our neighbors as ourselves
and Christ in all that we meet.**

Bless the school year ahead -

**remembering that God always goes before us
and claims us as beloved children of God.**

Bless the school year ahead -

**trusting your grace in our lives
and hope for what is to come.**

Be with us this year.

**grant us your wisdom, Lord,
that we continue to seek it,
and look for signs of your love all around us.**

Kimberly Knowle-Zeller

OPENING SONG

Star-Child (*adapt.*)
Joan Miller, *Music Director*

TWFS 2095

*1) Star Child, earth Child, go between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lighting rod,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when school comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

2) *Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when school comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

3) *Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
sad child, lost child, story told in tears,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when school
comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

4) *Spared child, spoiled child, memory full of years,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when school comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

5) *Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when schools comes for
everyone,
everyone alive!*

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:39-40; Matthew 19:13-15 (CEB)

When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

Some people brought children to Jesus so that he would place his hands on them and pray. But the disciples scolded them. "Allow the children to come to me," Jesus said. "Don't forbid them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children." Then he blessed the children and went away from there

INVITATIONAL SONG

Where Children Belong

TFWS 2233

*This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the
worshipping throng. Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and
song: This is where children belong.*

MESSAGE

What the Kids Have to Say

Rev. Pamela Kurtz and LMUMC Children & Youth

SPECIAL PRAYER

Thank you for the gifts and lessons of this summer. God bless teachers, faculty and administrators as they guide us through this big question mark of a school year. Bless the parents trying to make it all work. And the children who are learning to make the best of things in ways we couldn't have predicted. Help us remember we hold each other in our hands. And please God, preserve our collective sense of humor. Amen.

Jennifer Garner

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 **We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise** TFWS 2031

***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 & RESOLVE *FEEL THE WEIGHT*

FEEL THE WEIGHT OF....

The Frustration and uncertainty of starting school in the midst of a pandemic.

FEEL THE WEIGHT OF....

The Skill it takes to get students to look at screen beyond video games and Netflix.

FEEL THE WEIGHT OF....

The Patience it takes to wear a mask all day and try to keep students engaged.

FEEL THE WEIGHT OF....

The Intensity of Preparing lessons that are interesting when not in the same room.

FEEL THE WEIGHT OF....

The Desire students have to be with their friends and away from their families.
The Loss of ritual and routine.

FEEL THE WEIGHT OF....

The Frustration parents are feeling juggling work and teaching.

FEEL THE WEIGHT OF....

The Desire of everyone to have things run as normal.

FEEL THE WEIGHT OF....

The Loss of normalcy, sports, activities etc.

(Adapt.) from godspacelight.com

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION & HOPE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Listen to these words my dear siblings: God is fully present in these times; knows the weight we feel of these new days. When we turn to God, God alone is fully able to lift weight from our body, minds and souls. Feel the release of the burdens of you have been carrying; know that you are forgiven through Jesus' reconciliation and love.

Praise be to Jesus the Christ, through whom we know God's forgiveness. 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

Walk with Me

TFWS 2242

Joan Miller, *Music Director*

[Refrain:]

Walk with me, I will walk with you

and build the land that God has planned where love shines through.

1) When Moses heard the call of God he said, “Lord, don’t sent me.”
But God told Moses, “You’re the one to set my people free.”

Walk with me, I will walk with you

and build the land that God has planned where love shines through.

2) Now Peter was a most unlikely man to lead the flock,
But Jesus knew his holiness and he became the Rock.

Walk with me, I will walk with you

and build the land that God has planned where love shines through.

3) Young Mary Magdalene was sure her life could be much more,
And by her faith she dared to let God’s love unlock the door.

Walk with me, I will walk with you

and build the land that God has planned where love shines through.

4) And when you share your faith with me and work for life made new, the
witness of your faithfulness calls me to walk with you.

Walk with me, I will walk with you

and build the land that God has planned where love shines through.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Pam

All raise hand, palm facing outward and wave goodbye.

¹ Kimberly Knowle-Zeller, is an ordained ELCA pastor, mother of two, and spouse of an ELCA pastor. She lives with her family in Cole Camp, MO. You can read more at her website, <http://www.kimberlyknowlezeller.com>, follow her work on Facebook, or sign up for her monthly newsletter.