



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



WORLD --- COMMUNION --- SUNDAY

Chinese Community UMC

Rev. Meina Ko, Pastor

Lake Merritt UMC

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor

Twin Towers UMC

Rev. Emily Lin, Pastor

Sunday, October 4, 2020
18th Sunday after Pentecost
Celebration of Divine Worship

WELCOME & ORIENTATION

PRELUDE

Kyrie Eleison

Margaret LeWright, LMUMC Handbell Director

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive*]:

When the world seems full of division,
Great Creator, make us one.

When it's hard to love our neighbor,
Great Creator, make us one.

When walls and borders separate us,
Great Creator, make us one.

When we close ourselves off to others,
Great Creator, make us one.

When we get it right,
Great Creator, make us one.

When we come together,
Great Creator, make us one.

When we are reminded we are part of something bigger than ourselves,
Great Creator, make us one.

When we ask others to join us at this table,
Great Creator, make us one.

OPENING SONG

One Medley

[*Make Us One TFWS 2224 & We Are the Body of Christ TFWS 2227*]

Joan Miller, *LMUMC Music Director*

[#2224] (2x)

Make us one, Lord, make us one;

Holy Spirit, make us one.

*Let your love flow so the world will know
we are one in you.*

[#2227] (2x)

One heart one spirit

One voice to praise You

We are the body of Christ

One goal one vision

To see You exalted

We are the body of Christ

And to this we give our lives

To see You glorified

OPENING PRAYER

Gathering God, joined as one body
we come to worship you today,
mindful of the breathing
of the life that you have called into being
across countries and climates;
all creatures and all creeds.

Jesus, teacher friend,
today you call us to your table
and invite us to feed on you,
so that we might then feed others.
Let our hunger for justice
and our desire for peace
never be exhausted
until all your children are safe and fed.

Life-giving Spirit,
let the words that reach our open ears
and your movement in our souls
in this time together
bless, comfort and disturb us.
So that the work of your people here
may be directed along the right paths
for the sake of the world,
And all the people say: Amen.

(Source: Rev. Jennie Gordan)

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 5:1-7; Matthew 21:33-46 (The MSG)

I'll sing a ballad to the one I love,
a love ballad about his vineyard:
The one I love had a vineyard,
a fine, well-placed vineyard.
He hoed the soil and pulled the weeds,
and planted the very best vines.
He built a lookout, built a winepress,
a vineyard to be proud of.
He looked for a vintage yield of grapes,
but for all his pains he got junk grapes.

“Now listen to what I'm telling you,
you who live in Jerusalem and Judah.
What do you think is going on
between me and my vineyard?
Can you think of anything I could have done
to my vineyard that I didn't do?
When I expected good grapes,
why did I get bitter grapes?

“Well now, let me tell you
what I'll do to my vineyard:
I'll tear down its fence
and let it go to ruin.
I'll knock down the gate
and let it be trampled.
I'll turn it into a patch of weeds, untended, uncared for—
thistles and thorns will take over.
I'll give orders to the clouds:
‘Don't rain on that vineyard, ever!’”

Do you get it? The vineyard of God-of-the-Angel-Armies
is the country of Israel.
All the men and women of Judah
are the garden he was so proud of.
He looked for a crop of justice
and saw them murdering each other.
He looked for a harvest of righteousness
and heard only the moans of victims.

“Here's another story. Listen closely. There was once a man, a wealthy farmer, who
planted a vineyard. He fenced it, dug a winepress, put up a watchtower, then turned it
over to the farmhands and went off on a trip. When it was time to harvest the grapes, he
sent his servants back to collect his profits.

“The farmhands grabbed the first servant and beat him up. The next one they murdered.
They threw stones at the third but he got away. The owner tried again, sending more

servants. They got the same treatment. The owner was at the end of his rope. He decided to send his son. 'Surely,' he thought, 'they will respect my son.'

"But when the farmhands saw the son arrive, they rubbed their hands in greed. 'This is the heir! Let's kill him and have it all for ourselves.' They grabbed him, threw him out, and killed him.

"Now, when the owner of the vineyard arrives home from his trip, what do you think he will do to the farmhands?"

"He'll kill them—a rotten bunch, and good riddance," they answered. "Then he'll assign the vineyard to farmhands who will hand over the profits when it's time."

Jesus said, "Right—and you can read it for yourselves in your Bibles:

The stone the masons threw out
is now the cornerstone.

This is God's work;
we rub our eyes, we can hardly believe it!

"This is the way it is with you. God's kingdom will be taken back from you and handed over to a people who will live out a kingdom life. Whoever stumbles on this Stone gets shattered; whoever the Stone falls on gets smashed."

When the religious leaders heard this story, they knew it was aimed at them. They wanted to arrest Jesus and put him in jail, but, intimidated by public opinion, they held back. Most people held him to be a prophet of God.

SERMON **"World Communion in the Face of Public Opinion"**

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor, Lake Merritt UMC

REFLECTION MOMENT MUSIC

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys & Concerns via breakout rooms
Pastoral 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

OFFERING

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.

DOXOLOGY

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 *[In unison]*

Just God, you created the whole vineyard for all to receive, and there was plenty for all. You see in each of us equal value and worth. But we broke from you, deciding that we knew how much each should have based on our assessment of merit. Our fear and worry God have made your abundant vineyard sparse in some areas, bitter in others. Forgive us our desire to have more than we need, disregarding your judgment of value and worth. Forgive us our silence, and rationalization, in the face of unjust practices. Return us to your favor, making your Holy Vineyard, once again available for and plentiful to all. *{Silence for prayer}*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Siblings in Christ:

God's love and mercy know no bounds. Like two holy arms, they reach across the world, across time, across every difference and every divide between us. They gather us up in God's everlasting embrace and tell us over and over: You are forgiven. You are forgiven. Be at peace. **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!

SHARING IN THE BREAD AND THE CUP

The Great Thanksgiving

The peace and presence of the Lord be with us.

Let us lift up our hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God, because it is the right thing to do, not only now,
but always - day after day after day.

And the body says, “Day after day after day.”

People: “Day after day after day.”

We thank you, Creator God, that you made us in your image, and breathed into us the
breath of life. When we turned away, our love failing, and our bodies diseased, you
reached out to us again and again, providing healing, wholeness, and new life.

When the flood came, You provided an ark.

When the plagues came You provided safety.

When evening came, You provided a pillar of fire.

When exile came, You provided a new song.

Day after day after day, Your love remained steadfast.

And the body says: Day after day after day.

People: Day after day after day.

And so with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name
and join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! God of power and might!

The body says: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! God of power and might!

People: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! God of power and might!

Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.

The body says: Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.

People: Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the Highest!

The body says: Hosanna in the Highest!

People: Hosanna in the Highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Blessed is your Son who came to preach the good news to the poor, release to the
captives and recovering of sight to the blind, freed the oppressed, and announced that the
time had come when you would save your people.

He healed the sick.

And the body says, “He healed the sick.

People: “He healed the sick.

He is healing the sick now.

And the body says, “He is healing the sick now.”

People: “He is healing the sick now.

He will heal the sick, day after day after day.

And the body says, “day after day after day.”

People: “day after day after day.”

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Let us be a community of healer and hope givers, as together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The body says: “Christ has died.”

People: Christ has died.”

The body says: “Christ is risen.”

People: “Christ is risen.”

The body says: “Christ will come again.”

People: Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Let them be for us the body and blood of Christ, so that we may be for the world the body of Christ, made whole by his witness, passion and life.

In this season of social distancing, may you remind us that we are never spiritually distant from You. We belong to your body.

The body says: “We belong to your body.”

People: We belong to your body.

May the Spirit use us to heal and reconcile in Jesus name,

The body says: “We will heal and reconcile in Jesus name.”

People: We will heal and reconcile in Jesus name.

And now Holy Spirit make us one in Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.

The body says: “Amen!”

People: Amen!

The Breaking of the Bread

This bread reminds us that any life, no matter how broken, or sick, or distorted it may become, can be made whole again.

The Pouring of the Cup

The cup reminds us that any life, no matter how empty, or lonely, or isolated it may become, can be filled again.

These are the gifts of God, for the family of God.

And the body says, “Thanks be to God.”

People: Thanks be to God.

Invitation - I invite you to prayerfully partake in Holy Communion by whatever means you have.

Prayer after Communion - Day after day after day you give yourself to us: in two or three gathered in your name, in connection across the miles, and in bread and wine. As we go from this gathering around your table, may we feel restored to your body, companioned by your people, and sustained by the power of your Spirit as we witness to your healing and reconciling work. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

CLOSING SONG **Vamos Todos al Banquete (Let Us Go Now to the Banquet)**

[Refrain:]

***Let us go now to the banquet,
to the feast of the universe.***

***The table's set and a place is waiting;
come, ev'ry-one, with your gifts to share.***

1. I will rise in the early morning;
the community's waiting for me.
With a spring in my step I'm walking
with my friends and my family.

Refrain

2. God invites all the poor and hungry
to the banquet of justice and good
where the harvest will not be hoarded
so that no one will lack for food.

Refrain

3. May we build such a place among us
where all people are equal in love.
God has called us to work together
and to share ev'rything we have.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

Rev. Pam

FELLOWSHIP TIME *{a time to greet one another}*