



# 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](http://www.lakemerrittumc.org)  
1255 First Avenue      Oakland, CA 94606

### LIVE-STREAM WORSHIP SERVICE



*"This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it" Ps 118:24*



### Worship Series:

***"Life is Like a Stand-Up Comedy Routine.  
Can I Get an Amen!"***

Sunday, October 18, 2020  
20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
*Celebration of Divine Worship*

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WELCOME & ORIENTATION

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive*]: ***O Great Laughing God***

O Great Laughing God,

we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised.

***We thank you that you have given to us the gift of laughter and delight.  
These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us and for  
all the earth.***

May we find that in giving up to laughter

there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing.

***Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit to renew our worship and  
our living. Amen.***

~ from the United Church of Canada's **Bay of Quinte**  
Conference website. <http://www.bayofquinteconference.ca/>

OPENING SONG

**Christ Joyful!**

(to Ellecombe: Hail to the Lord's Anointed, UMC 203)

Joan Miller, *LMUMC Music Director*

- 1) We lack the gift of laughter; Faith sits all pale and glum,  
Hope dozes on a rafter, and Love is stricken dumb  
Come, Christ, into our drabness, tell us that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection, your sweetest and your best.***
  
- 2) We know the trick of tumbling, red nose and redder face;  
by virtues of our bumbling ours is the jester's case.  
Come, Christ, come down immortal, teach us that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection, your sweetest and your best.***
  
- 3) You joined our sad profession, made good our foolishness,  
brought clowning into fashion, put on our joker's dress.  
Come, Christ, come holy laughter, to share that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection, your sweetest and your best.***

*4) Upon a foolish cross, Lord, you hung to make us mirth;  
but there you conquered loss, Lord, old death became new birth.  
Come everlasting joy; Christ, confirm that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection, your sweetest and your best.*

*-Colin Gibson, Words © Hope Publishing Company,  
from his collection of songs, Reading the Signature. (adapt)*

## READING OF SCRIPTURE

John 2:1-11 – (CEB)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They don't have any wine."

Jesus replied, "Woman, what does that have to do with me? My time hasn't come yet."

His mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby were six stone water jars used for the Jewish cleansing ritual, each able to hold about twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some from them and take it to the headwaiter," and they did. The headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine. He didn't know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

The headwaiter called the groom and said, "Everyone serves the good wine first. They bring out the second-rate wine only when the guests are drinking freely. You kept the good wine until now." This was the first miraculous sign that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

## SERMON

**"Worship Life Can Be Funny—**

***Especially When You Know the Whole Story"***

Rev. Pam & LMUMC Worshipping Community

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: "Lord,"

People: ***"Hear our Prayers."***

## 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.*

### THANKSGIVING SONG

**This is the Day (UMH 657 – adapt.)**

***This is the day,                      this is the day.  
That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice,                      we will rejoice,  
And be glad in it,                      and be glad in it.  
This is the day that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day,                      this is the day  
That the Lord has made.***

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION & RESOLVE [*Responsive*]

dour-faced

in the presence

of stunning sunsets;

**stricken with chronic severity**

**while surrounded**

**by gurgling babies;**

frozen-souled when touched  
by the warmth of  
grace;

**if we are made in your image,  
it's no wonder people think of you  
as a grouchy old geezer,  
God of Joy.**

so, breathe on us . . .

**fill our souls with:  
laughter which chases away  
the long faces;  
chuckles which wipe frowns  
off our brows;  
great guffaws  
which shatter hardened hearts;**

fill us,  
**Breath of sidesplitting shrieks,**

so we can celebrate  
**the last laugh on  
death.**

~ Copyright © Thom M. Shuman. Posted on **Prayers4Today**. <http://prayersfortoday.blogspot.ca/>

SILENT PRAYER FOR CONFESSION AND HOPE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

My dear siblings, this is the Good News through Christ Jesus: God does indeed laugh with us, cry with us, become frustrated with us and forgive us! It is good to laugh at ourselves, to acknowledge our wrongdoings, to commit to living for Christ-centric. These acts turn again and again toward the loving embrace of God. Be at peace. You are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God for the forgiveness we receive and the laughter we enjoy! 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

### CLOSING SONG

### **Laughter Lends Itself**

(Sung to Orientus Partibus: There's a Spirit in the Air, UMH 192)

*1) Laughter lends itself to praise  
bringing healing from within;  
hope will surely rise again  
as laughter lends itself to praise.*

*2) Laughter bends where laws may break;  
rigid fact can not contain  
half the wisdom of God's reign,  
so laughter bends where laws may break.*

*3) Laughter leaps into the void  
finding only Spirit there;  
shame and fear would never dare  
so laughter leaps into the void.*

*4) Laughter comes in spite of pain  
dancing even as we mourn;  
something dies but something's born  
for laughter comes in spite of pain.*

*5) Laughter lends itself to praise;  
all the love and all the fear,  
all the signs that God is near  
say laughter lends itself to praise.*

-Daniel Charles Damon Words © 1993 Hope Publishing Company  
From his collection, [Faith Will Sing](#).

## BENEDICTION

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