



# 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 25, 2020  
21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
*Celebration of Divine Worship*

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WELCOME & ORIENTATION

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive*]:

"Blow the trumpets;  
play the lute and harp;  
shake the tambourine;  
hear the strings and pipe;  
dance-  
***we praise God!***

Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places  
and in silly ways.

Let the laughter be deep,  
***for we are God's people."***

*-Arthur Gafke, printed in the Joyful Noiseletter.*

OPENING SONG

**Lord of the Dance**

Led by: Stephanie Gameros, *Line dancing*

1) *I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.*

***Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he***

2) *I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John  
They came with me and the Dance went on.*

***Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he***

3) *I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,  
And they left me there on a Cross to die.*

***Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he***

4) *I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
But I am the Dance, and I still go on.*

***Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he***

5) *They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.*

***Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he***

## READING OF SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1-5; 20-27 – (CEB)

When God began to create the heavens and the earth— the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God's wind swept over the waters— God said, "Let there be light." And so light appeared. God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. God named the light Day and the darkness Night.

There was evening and there was morning: the first day.

*(Then over the next few days, God did a lot more work to make the earth livable for creatures.)*

God said, "Let the waters swarm with living things, and let birds fly above the earth up in the dome of the sky." God created the great sea animals and all the tiny living things that swarm in the waters, each according to its kind, and all the winged birds, each according to its kind. God saw how good it was. Then God blessed them: "Be fertile and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth."

There was evening and there was morning: the fifth day.

God said, "Let the earth produce every kind of living thing: livestock, crawling things, and wildlife." And that's what happened. God made every kind of wildlife, every kind of livestock, and every kind of creature that crawls on the ground. God saw how good it was. Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth."

God created humanity in God's own image,  
in the divine image God created them,  
male and female God created them.

SERMON

**"In the Beginning...We Weren't in a Pandemic"**

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*]

**You know better than we do, Amused God,  
what important people we believe we are.**

**Believing we have to be serious all the time,  
we miss out on the joy of your creation.**

**Choosing to feast on the pain of the world,  
we skip the picnic offered in paradise.**

**Clinging to the despair which is our best friend,  
we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your heart.**

**Forgive us, Heart of Joy,  
and make us open to the startling, and upside-down,  
ways in which you work.**

**Fill us with Easter's laughter; fill us with your healing joy;  
fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.  
Amen.**

- from Liberty Grove United Methodist Church

# SILENT PRAYER FOR CONFESSION AND HOPE

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

My dear siblings, this is the Good News through Christ Jesus: God did not create dour-faced images of themselves for that is not God. Rather God created embodied images of laughter, joy, and good humor to lovingly embrace the times of sadness, anger and fear that may hold seasons of our lives. Be freed and reconciled to the God of love, laughter, justice, hope and joy. Be at peace. You are forgiven.  
**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 & SHARING HOLY COMMUNION

## GRATITUDE TIMES

## CLOSING SONG

### **Can't Stop This Feeling**

*J. Timberlake.*

*Led by: Stephanie Gameros, Line Dancing*

*Ah, yeah, ah, yeah*

*I got this feelin' inside my bones It goes electric, wavy when I turn it on  
All through my city, all through my home We're flyin' up, no ceilin', when we in  
our zone*

*I got that sunshine in my pocket Got that good soul in my feet  
I feel that hot blood in my body when it drops (ooh)  
I can't take my eyes up off it, movin' so phenomenally  
Room on lock, the way we rock it, so don't stop*

*And under the lights when everything goes Nowhere to hide when I'm gettin' you  
close*

*When we move, well, you already know So just imagine, just imagine, just  
imagine*

*Nothin' I can see but you when you dance, dance, dance  
Feel a good, good creepin' up on you So just dance, dance, dance, come on  
All those things I shouldn't do But you dance, dance, dance  
And ain't nobody leavin' soon, so keep dancin'  
I can't stop the feelin' So just dance, dance, dance  
I can't stop the feelin' So just dance, dance, dance, come on*

*Ooh, it's something magical*

*It's in the air, it's in my blood, it's rushin' on (rushin' on)*

*I don't need no reason, don't need control (need control)*

*I fly so high, no ceiling, when I'm in my zone*

*'Cause I got that sunshine in my pocket Got that good soul in my feet*

*I feel that hot blood in my body when it drops (ooh)*

*I can't take my eyes up off it, moving so phenomenally*

*Room on lock, the way we rock it, so don't stop (stop, stop, stop)*

*Under the lights when everything goes Nowhere to hide when I'm gettin' you close*

*When we move, well, you already know So just imagine, just imagine, just imagine*

*Nothing I can see but you when you dance, dance, dance*

*Feel a good, good, creepin' up on you So just dance, dance, dance, come on*

*All those things I shouldn't do But you dance, dance, dance*

*And ain't nobody leavin' soon, so keep dancin'*

*I can't stop the feelin' So just dance, dance, dance*

*I can't stop the feelin' So just dance, dance, dance*

*I can't stop the feelin' So just dance, dance, dance*

*I can't stop the feelin' (yeah)*

*So keep dancin', come on*

*Oh, yeah, yeah*

*I can't stop the, I can't stop the*

*I can't stop the, I can't stop the*

*I can't stop the feelin'*

*Nothin' I can see but you when you dance, dance, dance (I can't stop the feelin')*

*Feel the good, good, creepin' up on you*

*So just dance, dance, dance, come on (I can't stop the feelin')*

*All those things I shouldn't do*

*But you dance, dance, dance (dance, dance, dance) (I can't stop the feelin')*

*And ain't nobody leavin' soon, so keep dancin'*

*Everybody sing (I can't stop the feelin')*

*Got this feeling in my body (I can't stop the feelin')*

*Got this feeling in my body (I can't stop the feelin')*

*Wanna see you move your body (I can't stop the feelin')*

*Got this feelin' in my body*

*Break it down*

*Got this feelin' in my body (ah)*

BENEDICTION

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