

# Lake Merritt United Methodist Church



An Inclusive Christian Community of Oakland

*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

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICE



“Compassion, Healing & Reconciliation”

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*  
Joan Miller, *Music Director*  
Neil Wade, *Office Administrator*

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Sunday, November 8, 2020  
*Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost*  
*Celebration of Divine Worship*

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WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

*It Is Well with My Soul*

Margaret LeWright, *Chimes*

CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]:

*You Are a Mustard Seed*

Patty Staggs, Tam Hege

You are a mustard seed of justice.

Never mind the smallness of your witness.

**The wound is deep, the sickness is awful,  
the hunger is great.**

But you are a mustard seed of healing and justice.

**Immeasurable divine fruit is hidden  
in the smallest acts of love and courage.**

It's not about you. It's the power you contain.

You are a mustard seed of justice.

But only when you are sown.

**We are mustard seeds of justice.**

**We are sown.**

from Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*

OPENING SONG     **Wounded World that Cries for Healing**     TFWS 2177

[in the tune of "Hymn of Promise"]

Joan Miller, *Music Director*

*1. Wounded world that cries for healing --  
here we hold each other's pain,  
wounded systems, bruised and bleeding  
bear the load, the scars of strain;  
dollars ration out compassion,  
hard decisions rule the day,*

*Jesus of the healing Spirit,  
free us to another way!*

*2. Through our nation's spent frustration,  
through the corridors of stress  
may there move a kindlier wisdom  
all may feel, and all may bless;  
tax and tithe are for a purpose  
shared to shield the poor and weak:  
past the symptoms of our sickness  
let the voice of justice speak.*

*3. Honor those whose loving spirit  
nurses hope, restores and heals,  
towel and basin used in service  
like the Christ who comes and kneels;  
in the tending, in the mending  
may we see the right and fair,  
in our common quest for wholeness  
heal each other by our care.*

#### READING OF SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:1-3a; 10-16; 31-32 (CEB)

That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.

He said many things to them in parables:

Jesus' disciples came and said to him, "Why do you use parables when you speak to the crowds?"

Jesus replied, "Because they haven't received the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but you have. For those who have will receive more and they will have more than enough. But as for those who don't have, even the little they have will be taken away from them. This is why I speak to the crowds in parables: although they see, they don't really see; and although they hear, they don't really hear or understand. What Isaiah prophesied has become completely true for them:

*You will hear, to be sure, but never understand;  
and you will certainly see but never recognize what you are seeing.  
For this people's senses have become calloused,  
and they've become hard of hearing,  
and they've shut their eyes  
so that they won't see with their eyes  
or hear with their ears  
or understand with their minds,  
and change their hearts and lives that I may heal them.*

“Happy are your eyes because they see. Happy are your ears because they hear.

He told another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. It's the smallest of all seeds. But when it's grown, it's the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches.”

MESSAGE

***“Compassion, Healing & Reconciliation”***

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor

SPECIAL MUSIC

**Anyway**

W&M: Martina McBride

Neil Wade, Soloist

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

*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 Thy People Praise Thee**      UMH 67

*We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee, God of every nation!  
We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee, Lord of Hosts eternal!*

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & RESOLVE [*responsive*]

**People are often unreasonable and self-centered.**

Forgive them anyway.

**If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.**

Be kind anyway

**If you are honest, people may cheat you.**

Be honest anyway.

**If you find happiness, people may be jealous.**

Be happy anyway.

**The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.**

Do good anyway.

**Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough.**

Give your best anyway.

**For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.**

It was never between you and them anyway.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

## SILENT PRAYER FOR CONFESSION & HOPE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE [*responsive*]:

Hear the Good News: God's compassion, forgiveness and grace extend to all who seek forgiveness and redemption and so enlarge the God's family.

Know that you are forgiven and loved.

**Praise be to God for the forgiveness and love so generously given. 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

*Shared from the Gathered Community*

CLOSING SONG

**Make Me A Channel of Your Peace**

TFWS 2171

1. *Make me a channel of Your peace  
Where there is hatred let me bring Your love  
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in You*
2. *Make me a channel of Your peace  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever joy*
3. *Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul*
4. *Make me a channel of Your peace  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life*

BENEDICTION

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