

# 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**

**"Known and Called"**

*Epiphany Season Series*

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

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Sunday, January 10, 2021  
*First Sunday After the Epiphany*  
*Baptism of the Lord Sunday*  
Celebration of Divine Worship

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WELCOME

INTROIT

Christ, Be Our Light  
Joan Miller, Music Director

Bernadette Farrell

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness, longing for truth, we turn to you.*

*Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness,*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your church gathered today.*

OPENING PRAYER [*responsive*]: **The Baptisms We Need** Bob Cox & Lito Ambalong

By: John van de Laar, with permission, (©Sacredise 2008) (adapt.)

Leader: In the face of all that this world  
has become and endures:

the death and destruction,  
the dirt and disfigurement,  
the division and disinterest,

People: **We need a baptism that will cleanse and heal us,  
and wash away our sin.**

Leader: In the face of all that this world  
could be and could know:

the beauty and the bravery,  
the compassion and companionship,  
the generosity and curiosity,

People: **We need a baptism that will renew and inspire us,  
and awaken us to your life within.**

Leader: So, pour out your living water, we pray,

People: **flood us and make us new  
and send us out as water bearers  
to awaken life in your world.**

**Amen.**

Opening Song

*Water, Spirit, River, Grace (2x)*

TFWS 2253

Water, river, spirit, grace  
Sweep over me, sweep over me  
Re-carve the depths your fingers traced  
in sculpting me,  
in sculpting me.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:9-11; Acts 19:1-7 (CEB)

Mark 1:9-11

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul took a route through the interior and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you came to believe?"

They replied, "We've not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

Then he said, "What baptism did you receive, then?"

They answered, "John's baptism."

Paul explained, "John baptized with a baptism by which people showed they were changing their hearts and lives. It was a baptism that told people about the one who was coming after him. This is the one in whom they were to believe. This one is Jesus."

After they listened to Paul, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in other languages and prophesying. Altogether, there were about twelve people.

SERMON

*"Known by a Watermark: Called to Life"*

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

ANTHEM

Watermarks

*Billy Crocket*

*Watermarks, Watermarks  
I must go down in the river to drown  
To be buried with Christ  
To be raised up to life and carry His watermark  
Watermark*

*I see Peter stepping out of the boat  
He is walking, he is sinking, he is calling  
I see Jesus, He is bending down low*

*He is washing the feet of the faithless  
They have watermarks  
Watermarks*

*I must go down in the river to drown  
To be buried with Christ  
To be raised up to life and carry His watermark  
Watermark*

*I see Noah on the 39th day  
He is waiting but the sun is not breaking  
There is Rachel  
She will not be consoled  
She is weeping for her children, weeping  
She has watermarks  
Watermarks*

*Let the heart be blessed  
In its brokenness rejoicing  
All is stripped away  
There's another day beginning  
Watermarks, Watermarks*

*I see Jonah washed up on the shore  
He is kneeling, he is open, he is ready now  
There's a blind man with mud in his eyes  
He is washing, he is seeing, splashing*

*I must go down in the river to drown  
To be buried with Christ  
To be raised up to life  
I must go down, I must go down  
To carry His watermark  
Watermark, Watermark, Watermark  
I must go down, I must go down*

## 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      **From All That Dwell** (sung to 'The First Noel)  
Words: Isaac Watts and Thomas Ken

*From all that dwell below the skies,  
Let the Creator's praise arise;  
Let the Redeemer's Name be sung,  
Through every land, by every tongue.  
Let the Redeemer's Name be sung,  
Through every land, by every tongue.*

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & RESOLVE *[responsive]*

You speak, God — you always speak,  
if we will but listen;

**All we need to do is pause, and turn our attention  
to the song singing from the heavens,  
and whispering in the wind;  
to the flight of the dove,  
and the touch of its wings on our heads;  
to the giggling of the water,  
and the mark it leaves in our hearts;**

**Your voice comes to us in faithful surround sound,  
beckoning us to join the chorus,  
share in the dance,  
and extend the invitation into all the earth. Amen.**

**TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF FORGIVENESS AND HOPE**

## Assurance of Grace

Hear these words of Good News dear siblings: You speak God – you always speak; and joyfully, we are listening. We seek redemption, abiding in your beckoning, we are forgiven people!

**Praise be to God! Amen!**

Confession and Assurance by John van de Laar (adapt.)

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

As forgiven people living in anticipation of Jesus's coming, let us share peace with our siblings in the world.

*We go to our windows and doors and share with the world:  
"the peace of Christ be with you!"*

## SHARING THE HOLY COMMUNION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

## GRATITUDE TIMES

## CLOSING SONG

*"Toda La Tierra"*  
(All Earth is Waiting)

UMH 210

1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
and open furrows the sowing of the Lord.  
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,"  
for his name is "God with us" our brother shall be,  
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.
3. Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;  
open new highways, new highways for the Lord.  
He is now coming closer, so come all and see,  
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.
4. In lowly stable the Promised One appeared,  
yet, feel his presence throughout the earth today,  
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;  
again, with his coming he brings us liberty

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Bryan Schneider-Thomas  
from Ministry Matters

Almighty God,  
parent of all who call upon your name,

in the waters of baptism you have transformed us,  
marking us as your children,  
and recreating us through the work of your Son  
and the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Show us once more with your grace  
that we might be renewed in your spirit,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen**

POSTLUDE

Christ Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell

*Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.*

*Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness,*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your church gathered today.*