

# 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 24, 2021  
*Third 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*]: **Feel That?**

By: Gwen Matthews

Readers: Rose Lynn Abesamis-Bell, Margaret LeWright, Paul Bell-Tull,

Feel that?

Each breath, every inhale, exhale

*We are living, breathing, connected.*

*We are the whole, complete, beautiful selves  
that we were born to be.*

Feel that?

In your bones, in your muscles

In your heart and your blood

*That is the extraordinary you.*

*The you who was born*

*for this time, this place, this moment.*

Feel that?

The struggle, the worry,

The pain, the loss, the grief,

*It is still you.*

*You are still whole, complete, beautiful, extraordinary*

Feel that.

1. *“I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I’ll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.*
2. *I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell.*
3. *When you heard the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.*
4. *If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk ’till rising sun.*
5. *In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I’ll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I’ve begun.*
6. *When the evening gently closes in,  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I’ll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.*
7. *I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I’ll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.”*

## SCRIPTURE READING

*1 Sam 3:1-10; Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-14, 17-18 (CEB)**1 Sam 3:1-10*

Now the boy Samuel was serving the Lord under Eli. The Lord’s word was rare at that time, and visions weren’t widely known. One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. God’s lamp hadn’t gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the Lord’s temple, where God’s chest<sup>[a]</sup> was.

The Lord called to Samuel. “I’m here,” he said.

Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go lie down." So he did.

Again, the Lord called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call, my son," Eli replied. "Go and lie down."

(Now Samuel didn't yet know the Lord, and the Lord's word hadn't yet been revealed to him.)

A third time the Lord called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So, Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening.'" So, Samuel went and lay down where he'd been.

Then the Lord came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening."

*Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-14, 17-18*

Lord, you have examined me.

You know me.

You know when I sit down and when I stand up.

Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.

You study my traveling and resting.

You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.

There isn't a word on my tongue, Lord,  
that you don't already know completely.

You surround me – front and back.

You put your hand on me.

That kind of knowledge is too much for me;  
it's so high above me that I can't reach it.

You are the one who created my innermost parts;  
you knit me together while I was still in my mother's womb.

I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart.

Your works are wonderful – I know that very well.

God, your plans are incomprehensible to me!

Their total number is countless!

If I tried to count them – they outnumber grains of sand!

If I came to the very end – I'd still be with you.

SERMON

*"Known on Sight: Called to Be"*

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor & Rev. Stephanie Gamereos

## ANTHEM

Spirit's Prayer  
LMUMC Voice Choir

Gary Lynn Floyd & Robin Hackett

## 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]*

God,  
so many voices call to me.  
I turn so many ways.  
They are not you.

Help me hear your true voice,  
**the clear, calm voice**  
**at the center of every cry,**  
**the quiet, steady voice**  
**that knows my name,**  
**the mystery that speaks**  
**in ways only my deepest heart hears.**

Help me hear the silence  
within the noise  
and turn to listen.

**Speak, Holy One,**  
**for I am listening.**

by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

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

### **Assurance of Grace**

Hear these words of Good News my dear siblings: God is always seeking us and bidding us to return to God's righteous ways. In our redemption, God reinvigorates us with holiness, passion and power to nurture ourselves and others in love and grace. Know you are forgiven by the power of God's love.

**Praise be to God! Amen!**

### **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**

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore    UMH 344

1. Lord, you have come to the lakeshore  
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
you only asked me to follow humbly.

*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,  
And while smiling, have spoken my name;  
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;  
by your side I will seek other seas.*

2. You know so well my possessions;  
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
you will find there my nets and labor.

*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me;  
And while smiling, have spoken my name;  
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;  
by your side I will seek other seas.*

3. You need my hands, full of caring  
through my labors to give others rest,  
and constant love that keeps on loving.

*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me;  
And while smiling, have spoken my name;  
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;  
by your side I will seek other seas.*

4. You, who have fished other oceans,  
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
my loving friend, as thus you call me.

*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me;  
And while smiling, have spoken my name;  
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;  
by your side I will seek other seas.*

## BENEDICTION

from Ministry Matters (adapt.)

Lost . . .

wandering without purpose, meaning, value,  
acceptance, or place.

We wander lost. But the Spirit of God descends  
like a dove upon us. We hear the ancient words  
that name and claim us as children of God.

We are cleansed, refreshed, and made new  
in the love of those words.

We go forth led by the Spirit of God  
with purpose, meaning, value, acceptance.

*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.*