

# 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



*Resurrection Sunday*

**Gifts of the Dark Wood**

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

Joan Miller, *Music Director*

Neil Wade, *Office Administrator*

[pastor@lakemerrittumc.org](mailto:pastor@lakemerrittumc.org)

[music@lakemerrittumc.org](mailto:music@lakemerrittumc.org)

[office@lakemerrittumc.org](mailto:office@lakemerrittumc.org)

April 4, 2021

*Easter*

---

## WELCOME

### INTROIT

This Path

Chuck Bell & Marcia McFee

Judi and Wayne Fabrizio

*There's a path (echo: there's a path) ... though it winds its way through darkness  
We would choose (we would choose) ... to avoid it if we could*

*We awake (we awake) ... to an unexpected calling*

*God says, "come (God says, "come) ... there are gifts in the Dark Wood"*

### EASTER MORNING ECHOES

### OPENING SONG

Christ, the Lord is Risen Today

UMH 302 (Vs. 1-2, 4, & 6)

LMUMC Chimes

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, *Alleluia!*  
Earth and heaven in chorus say, *Alleluia!*  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, *Alleluia!*  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, *Alleluia!*
2. Love's redeeming work is done, *Alleluia!*  
Fought the fight, the battle won, *Alleluia!*  
Death in vain forbids him rise, *Alleluia!*  
Christ has opened paradise, *Alleluia!*

### SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:1-10 (CEB)

Jane Sliheet

Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words. When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles.

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, *Alleluia!*  
Following our exalted Head, *Alleluia!*  
Made like him, like him we rise, *Alleluia!*  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, *Alleluia!*

6. King of glory, soul of bliss, *Alleluia!*  
Everlasting life is this, *Alleluia!*  
Thee to know, thy power to prove, *Alleluia!*  
Thus to sing, and thus to love, *Alleluia!*

## MESSAGE

### “Where Do We Go From Here”

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

## ANTHEM

### “Christ Be Our Light”

LMUMC Voice Choir

Prayers of the People - Rev. Pam

When Pastor says “*Lord,*”

**People Respond: Hear our Prayers**

The Lord’s Prayer - Ecumenical Version (UMH 894)

\*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 for ever. Amen.

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offering Words

Thanksgiving Song

### Step by Step

W&S 3004

*Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
Oh God, You are my God  
And, I will ever praise You*  
  
*I will seek You in the morning  
And I will learn to  
Walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days*

## HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of Confession and Resolve (*Responsive*)

Jane Sliheet

For focusing more on *right* faith over daring response,  
**Forgive and restore us, O God.**

For accepting the *right* path over struggling to find our own path,  
**Forgive and restore us, O God.**

For choosing *right* scripture over the leading of the Spirit,  
**Forgive and restore us, O God.**

# TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF FORGIVENESS AND HOPE

## Assurance of Grace

*Hear these words of assurance:*

God celebrates our accomplishments born from our shortcomings and right failures.

God is cheering us on as we discern best choices for wholly-alive living.

God is with you, forgiving and restoring you to wholeheartedness.

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

## Passing the Peace

Pastor: As forgiven people living in the midst of the work of Jesus, 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 COMMUNION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

### Gratitude Times

#### Closing Song

**Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!**

*Getty Music*

Ken Schoon, Cellist

1. How can it be, the One who died,  
Has born our sin through sacrifice  
To conquer every sting of death?  
Sing, sing hallelujah.
2. For joy awakes as dawning light  
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes.  
Alive He stands, their Friend and King;  
Christ, Christ He is risen.

*Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh, sing hallelujah.*

*Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed; Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.*

3. Where doubt and darkness once had been,  
They saw Him and their hearts believed.  
But blessed are those who have not seen,  
Yet, sing hallelujah.

4. Once bound by fear now bold in faith,  
They preached the truth and power of grace.  
And pouring out their lives they gained  
Life, life everlasting.

*Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh, sing hallelujah.*

*Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed; Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.*

5. The power that raised Him from the grave  
Now works in us to powerfully save.  
He frees our hearts to live His grace;  
Go tell of His goodness.

*Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh, sing hallelujah.*

*Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed; Christ is risen, He is risen indeed. [repeat 1x]*

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Pam and Jane Sliheet

You have a place in this world; a place where everything comes together in your body and you disappear into a seamless whole. Move with and through those shortcomings that afflict you, and inhabit this world with your fullest self.

May the Spirit of the Living God,  
Made known to us most fully within life's Dark Wood:  
    **Go before you** to show you the way;  
    **Go above you** to watch over you;  
**Go behind you** to push you into places you may not necessarily go yourself;  
    **Go beneath you** to uphold and uplift you;  
**Go beside you** to be your strong and constant companion;  
And dwell within you to remind you that you are surely not alone,  
    And that you are loved—loved beyond your wildest imagination.  
And may the fire of God's blessing burn brightly upon you, and within you,  
    Now and always.

**Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!**  
**Amen.**