

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.

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LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICE



Earth Day Sunday

“Dare to Dance”

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*
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April 25, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Celebration of Divine Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz

INTROIT

“We Have Come to This Holy Place”

By: Trisha Watts & Monica O’Brien

Easter is the unstoppable, unpredictable expression of God’s love for humankind!
The call of Jesus

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

If we are to dance with abandon, we learn and follow – then we can begin to lead....

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Fran Cooper

Morning has broken!

We gather to greet the new day by praising God.

God created us for relationship with God, one another, and the earth.

Let us honour those relationships today and every day.

We seek to care for our brothers and sisters around the world and to God's good Creation.

Let us honour those relationships today and every day.

May we commit to new ways of honoring your Creation
as a means of sharing Jesus' transforming love,

And let us seek God's grace, justice and mercy for all. Amen.

worshipwords.co.uk

SONGS, A READING, AND SCRIPTURE

Let All Creation Dance By: Brian Wren

[in the tune of “Darwalls 148th (‘Rejoice, the Lord is King)’]

*1. Let all creation dance
in energies sublime,
as order turns with chance,
unfolding space and time
for nature's art
in glory grows,
and newly shows
God's mind and heart.*

2. *God's breath each force unfurls,
igniting from a spark
expanding starry swirls,
with whirlpools dense and dark.
Though moon and sun
seem mindless things,
each orbit sings:
"Your will be done."*

**Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –
We know your voice, the sounds of your steps.
Your love gathers us, urges us, encourages us.
Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.
Be with us now, we pray. Amen.**

3. *Our own amazing earth,
with sunlight, cloud and storms
and life's abundant growth
in lovely shapes and forms,
is made for praise,
a fragile whole,
and from its soul
heav'n's music plays.*

4. *Lift heart and soul and voice:
in Christ all praises meet
and nature shall rejoice
as all is made complete.
In hope be strong.*

All life befriend and kindly tend creation's song.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2:15; Isaiah 24:4-5 (NIV)

Fran Cooper

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (*Gn 2:15*)

The earth dries up and withers,
the world languishes and withers,
the heavens languish with the earth.

The earth is defiled by its people;
they have disobeyed the laws,
violated the statutes
and broken the everlasting covenant. (*Is 24:4-5*)

1. *I am your mother: do not neglect me!
Children, protect me - I need your trust:
my breath is your breath,
my death is your death,
ashes to ashes, dust into dust.*
2. *I am your nurture: do not destroy me!
Love and enjoy me, savor my fruit;
my good is your good,
my food is your food,
water and flower, branches and root.*
3. *I am your lodging: do not abuse me!
Tenderly use me, soothing my scars;
my health is your health,
my wealth is your wealth,
shining with promise, set among stars.*
4. *God is our maker: do not deny God,
challenge, defy God, threaten this place:
life is to cherish -
care, or we perish!
I am your mother, tears on my face.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

When Pastor says "Lord,"

Respond: **Hear our Prayers**

The Lord's Prayer

(From the NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK)

*We invite you to use any other name to refer to the Divine with which you are comfortable ~
God, Father, Mother, Creator, etc.

Eternal Spirit Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of Confession and Resolve

Here we are, God - a planet at prayer. Attune our spirits that we may hear your harmonies and bow before your creative power; that we may face our violent discords and join with your energy to make heard in every heart your hymn of peace.

Here we are, God - a militarized planet. Transform our fears that we may transform our war fields into wheat fields, arms into handshakes, missiles into messengers of peace.

Here we are, God - a polluted planet. Purify our vision that we may perceive ways to purify our beloved lands, cleanse our precious waters, de-smog our life-giving air.

Here we are, God - an exploited planet. Heal our heart, that we may respect our resources, hold priceless our people, and provide for our starving children an abundance of daily bread.

Saint Roch Catholic Secondary School, Canada

TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

Assurance of Grace

Hear these words of assurance:

Here we are God, open us to see the world as you see it; transform our fears when we believe the problems are too big for us. Embolden us to be led by the Holy Spirit in life made anew by you. God is with us, forgiving and providing for us.

Glory be to God. *Amen!*

Passing the Peace

Pastor: As forgiven people living in the midst of the resurrection 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 IN COMMUNION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MESSAGE

“Dancing for Mother Earth” Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

EARTH DAY SPECIAL MUSIC FOR MOTHER EARTH

“A Prayer for the Earth”

Words: Pope Francis I
Music by: Hazan Steve Klaper &
Br Al Mascia, OFM.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offering Words

Offertory 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.

And we will dance, and we will dance,

And be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

And we will dance, and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day

That the Lord has made.

LIVING AS THE CHURCH

GRATITUDE TIMES

CLOSING HYMN

The Trees of the Field

TFWS 2279

*You shall go out with joy, And be led forth with peace.
The mountains and the hills, Will break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy, And all the trees of the field,
Will clap, will clap their hands.*

*And all the trees of the field, Will clap their hands.
The trees of the field, Will clap their hands.
The trees of the field, Will clap their hands,
While you go out with joy.*

BENEDICTION

Creator God,

You have called us to be keepers of your Earth;
through greed, we have established an economy
that destroys the web of life.

We have changed our climate and drown in despair.

Let oceans of justice flow,

May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Mother, Earth.

We pray for our ourselves, custodians of Mother Earth;

May we negotiate with wisdom and fairness,

May we act with compassion and courage,

and may we lead us in the path of justice for the sake of our children and
our children's children.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu (adapted)

POSTLUDE