

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church



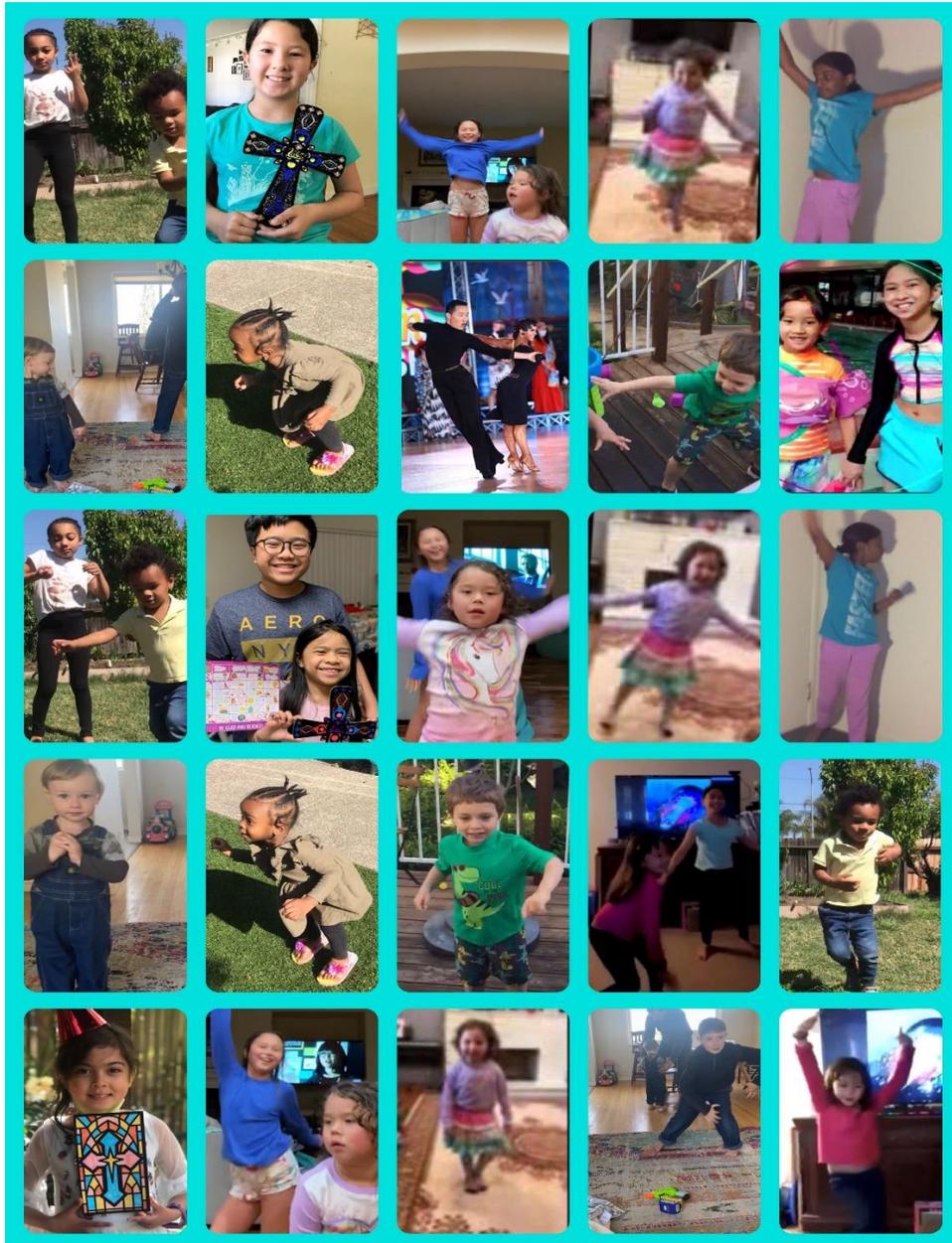
An Inclusive Christian Community of Oakland

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

1255 First Avenue Oakland, CA 94606

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICE



Dare to Dance Again Worship Series "While in their Joy: Dancing Sure"

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor
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May 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Celebration of Divine Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz

INTROIT *[Responsive]*

“Dare to Dance”

By: Trisha Watts, Monica O'Brien; Music: Chuck Bell

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!

This Sunday acknowledges that sometimes we are unsure about our steps in this world. For the disciples, even “while in their joy” at seeing Jesus after the resurrection, they were still “disbelieving and wondering.” We are reminded that even though we may not know our next steps, we can be sure they will come because we are God’s beloved children, and so we have steps to follow – those of the resurrected 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!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dan Strauss & Rev. Pamela Kurtz

This is the call! Face this new day,
even when you aren’t sure...
We lift up our heads to meet the day.
Get ready for life, for life is all around.
We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.
If rain still lingers,
open the umbrellas of hope and set out anyway.
For we are called to dance again!

SONGS, A READING, AND SCRIPTURE

Teach Me to Dance By: Graham Shepherd

*1. Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,
teach me to move in the light of your presence,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.*

*2. Teach me to pray in the power of Easter,
following Christ in a life resurrected,
teach me to act with compassion and justice,
teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.*

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –
You set this world in motion and gave it life.
Turn us to you when our steps are not sure.
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. Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,
teach me to trust in the word of your promise,
teach me to hope in the day of your coming,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:36b-48

Dan Strauss

While they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet. It’s really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn’t have flesh and bones like you see I have.” As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, he said to them, “Do you have anything to eat?” They gave him a piece of baked fish. Taking it, he ate it in front of them. Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you— That everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

When Pastor says "Lord,"

Respond: **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 for ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of Confession and Resolve *(responsive)*

Gracious God, you give to us your greatest gift, Your holy child Jesus the Risen Christ. You call us to be people of courage and hope and dreams; yet we hide, doubting, fearing and hold back from living out those dreams. You challenge us to proclaim our faith and speak with hope and conviction; but we huddle with those who are too much like us, whispering our words of fear of "what if...." Shake us up, Lord! Forgive us when we seem to need prodding over and over again. Help us to see the joy in living the dreams of hope, eternal justice and faith. Change us! Remold us! Make us truly the disciples you have called us to be. AMEN.

TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

Assurance of Grace

God is with you always, especially when doubts and fear hold you back. No longer be afraid to let your dreams and the dreams of others come alive in vivid color.

God forgives, redeems and, rejoices in our living out the true nature of our Christ-like discipleship. Rejoice in the love poured out, now and forever. Praise Be to the Risen Christ, the greatest dreamer of all! 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 “Dare to Dance Again: Dancing for All We’re Worth”

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

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.*

CLOSING SONG *Come and Join the Celebration* By: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
[in the tune of ‘Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing’]

- 1. Come and join the celebration! Praise the Lord and gladly sing.
Hear the gospel proclamation: God in Christ changed everything!
Tell again the wondrous story; let your praises rise above.
God, we sing and give you glory for your everlasting love.*
- 2. Sing with joy, for on a Sunday friends of Jesus went to grieve.
Soon they found his tomb was empty; telling others, they believed.
God of miracle and wonder, Jesus died and lives again.
Death has lost, for you are stronger; all creation sings, “Amen!”*
- 3. God, we sing, for there is nothing that can keep your love away –
Not oppression, hardship, famine, things to come or things today.
Heights and depths cannot defeat us; death will never be the same.
Christ is risen! So, you promise: we have life in Jesus’ name.*
- 4. Sing with joy, each generation! Sing with those who’ve gone before.
Join the kingdom celebration, old and young, both rich and poor.
We have life, for we’re forgiven; where, O death, is now your sting?
Born of dust, we’re claimed for heaven, so let all God’s people sing.*

CLOSING PRAYER

Dan Strauss

"Dance me to your beauty with a burning violin
Dance me through the panic till I'm gathered safely in
Lift me like an olive branch and be my homeward dove
Dance me to the end of love

Oh, let me see your beauty when the witnesses are gone
Let me feel you moving like they do in Babylon
Show me slowly what I only know the limits of
Dance me to the end of love."

Leonard Cohen

May we follow the lead of the Spirit
as we find expansive ways to dance the dance of love.
And may the Loving God, Risen Christ,
and Dancing Spirit,
fill you with all you need for the days ahead.
And all God's people said,

"Amen!"

DANCING BENEDICTION

Bumchin Tegshjargal & Michelle Klets, Competitive Dancers