

# 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



*Dare to Dance Again Worship Series*

*"Gone Up with a Shout: Clap Your Hands"*

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor  
Joan Miller, Music Director  
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May 16, 2021  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Ascension Sunday

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!

Dancing changes us: it transforms us and brings us to life, awakens our senses. Imagine the dreams and the heartbeat and the life stirring in Jesus and his disciples as he readied them for this next chapter of ministry.

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

Domokuma Olali

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –  
Let us be open to learn from the dances of others.  
Open us to new steps for a new day.  
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.

OPENING SONG

For Everyone Born  
Ken Schoon, *cellist*

By: Shirley Erena Murray

1. For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead, and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!
2. For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share, with wisdom & grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair, and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

3. *For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive, in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live, and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

4. *For gay & for straight, a place at the table, a covenant shared, a welcoming space, a rainbow of race and gender and colour, for gay & for straight, the chalice of grace, and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

5. *For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free, and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

## SCRIPTURE          Psalm 47:1-6 (CEB); Acts 8:26-39 (NRSV, adapted)

### Psalm 47:1-6

Clap your hands, all you people!

Shout joyfully to God with a joyous shout!

Because the Lord Most High is awesome,  
he is the great king of the whole world.

He subdues the nations under us,  
subdues all people beneath our feet.

He chooses our inheritance for us:  
the heights of Jacob, which he loves. Selah

God has gone up with a joyous shout—  
the Lord with the blast of the ram's horn.

Sing praises to God! Sing praises!

Sing praises to our king! Sing praises

Acts 8:26-39 Then he 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 of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what Abba, God, promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

## MUSIC VIDEO

*Can't Stop this Feeling!*

Justin Timberlake

## 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)*

To confess is not only to acknowledge a truth we have held from ourselves all along, breathing quietly, alone and in secret what we could not initially give a voice, but a hopeful dedication to a larger power that might make us powerless to commit the selfsame sin again.

We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust in all you do. While we sing of your lordship over all creation, we have too often sung reservedly, as though you are powerless in the face of today's events.

Help us to sing and dance with confidence in your living presence today, and in hope of our buoyant life with you forever. Amen.

### TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

#### Assurance of Grace

Here these words of assurance my siblings:

Jesus calls us follow him, and he will not lead us astray. His path is one of forgiveness and renewal. Know that you are forgiven, and so you are ready to go out and serve.

Praise be to Jesus who reigns even now! Alleluia! 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 "Gone Up with a Shout: Alive and Breathing"

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

Clap Your Hands

by: Robert A. Roesch

# 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.*

LIVING AS THE CHURCH

GRATITUDE TIMES

CLOSING SONG

*Lift High the Name of Jesus*

Getty Music

*Lift high the name of Jesus, Of Jesus our King.  
Make known the power of His grace, The beauty of His peace.  
Remember how His mercy reached And we cried out to Him.  
He lifted us to solid ground, To freedom from our sin.  
Oh sing my soul, And tell all He's done,  
Till the earth and heavens are filled with His glory!  
Lift high the name of Jesus, Of Jesus our Lord.  
His power in us is greater than, Is greater than this world.  
To share the reason for our hope, To serve with love and grace,  
That all who see Him shine through us Might bring the Father praise.  
Oh sing my soul, And tell all He's done  
Till the earth and heavens are filled with His glory!  
Lift high the name of Jesus, Of Jesus our Light.  
No other name on earth can save, Can raise a soul to life.  
He opens up our eyes to see The harvest He has grown.  
We labor in His fields of grace As He leads sinners home.  
Oh sing my soul, And tell all He's done  
Till the earth and heavens are filled with His glory!*

CLOSING PRAYER

Domokuma Olali

The poet Hafiz said,  
"Every child has known God,  
Not the God of names, Not the God of don'ts,  
Not the God who ever does anything weird,  
But the God who knows only four words.  
And keeps repeating them, saying:

'Come dance with me, come dance.'

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!"

Git It Up  
Blanco Brown

**NEXT SUNDAY,**  
**WE INVITE YOU TO WEAR RED**  
**IN CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST!**