

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church



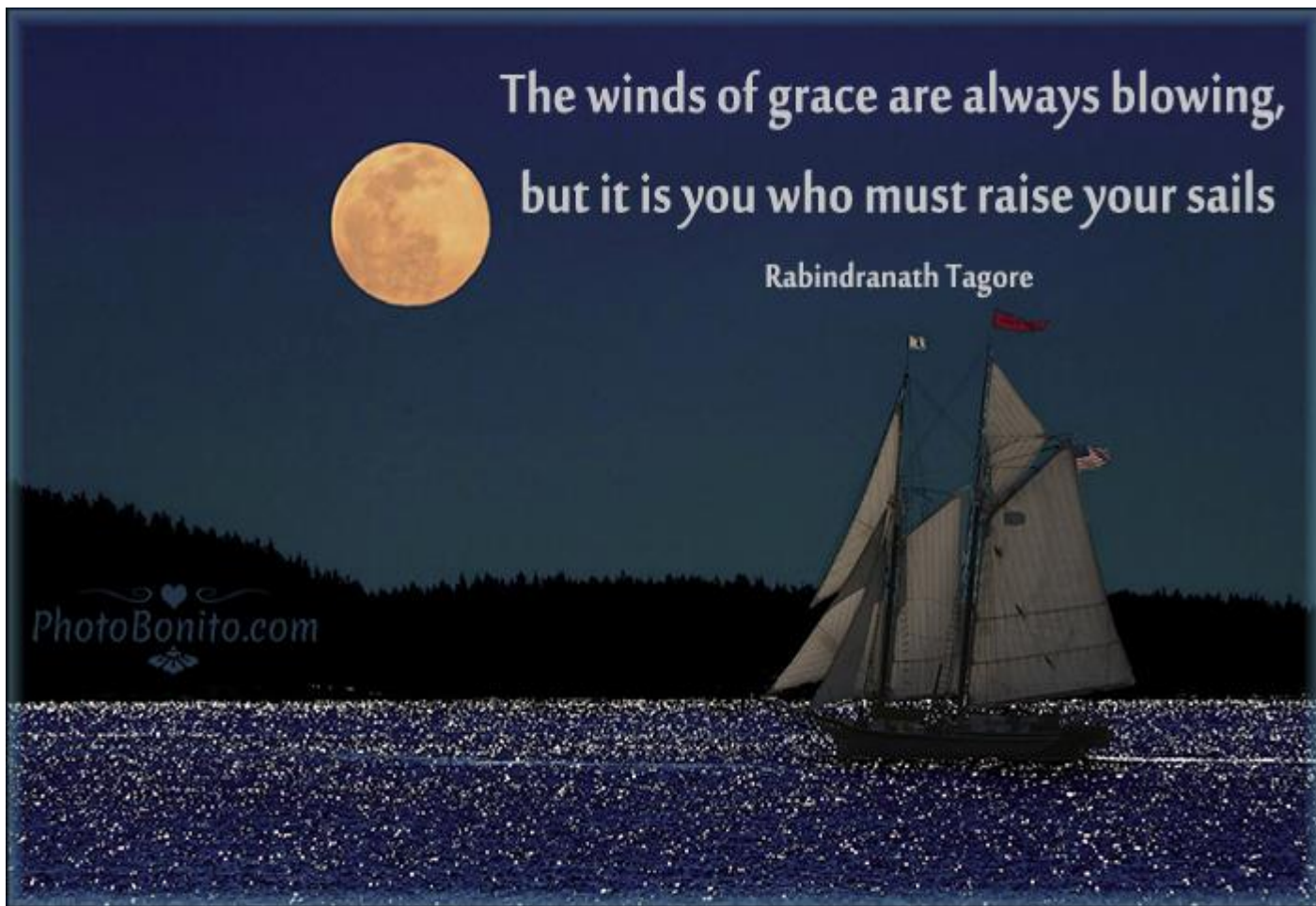
An Inclusive Christian Community of Oakland

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



*"With Great Power: Guide My Steps"
Dare to Dance Again Worship Series*

Graduation Sunday

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor
Joan Miller, Music Director
Neil Wade, Office Administrator

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May 30, 2021
1ST Sunday after Pentecost
Celebration of Divine Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz

INTROIT

“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 is my wish for you: Comfort on difficult days, smiles when sadness intrudes, rainbows to follow the clouds, laughter to kiss your lips, sunsets to warm your heart, hugs when spirits sag, beauty for your eyes to see, friendships to brighten your being, faith so that you can believe, confidence for when you doubt, courage to know yourself, patience to accept the truth, Love to complete your life.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT: LIGHT FOR OUR EYES

Rev. Pam & Letchumi Jesunathan

Lord, come and be light for our eyes.
Show us the way to fullness of life, Lord Jesus;
that our hearts might be filled with joy, hope, and peace, we pray;
that we might respond to opportunities, we pray;
that we might be strengthened to face challenges, we pray;
that we might become the persons we are called to be, we pray;
that we might learn to respect all of our siblings we pray;
that we might see the needs of others and give help, we pray.

~from “A Blessing for our Graduates.”

Posted on the Christian Brothers of the Midwest website. <http://www.cbmidwest.org/> (adapt)

SONG

Guide My Steps

TFWS 2208 (adapt.)

1. Guide my steps while I run this race.
Guide my steps while I run this race.
Guide my steps while I run this race,

for I don't want to run this race in vain!

*2. Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race.
for I don't want to run this race in vain!*

*3. Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race.
for I don't want to run this race in vain!*

*4. I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race.
for I don't want to run this race in vain!*

*5. Search my heart while I run this race.
Search my heart while I run this race.
Search my heart while I run this race.
for I don't want to run this race in vain!*

*6. Guide my steps while I run this race.
Guide my steps while I run this race.
Guide my steps while I run this race.
for I don't want to run this race in vain!*

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 4:10-12a, 14-16 (CEB)

We work and struggle for this: “Our hope is set on the living God, who is the savior of all people, especially those who believe.” Command these things. Teach them. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Instead, set an example for the believers through your speech, behavior, love, faith.... Don't neglect the spiritual gift in you that was given through prophecy when the elders laid hands on you. Practice these things, and live by them so that your progress will be visible to all. Focus on working on your own development and on what you teach. If you do this, you will save yourself and those who hear you.

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry TFWS 2051

- 1. I was there to hear your borne 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 God, 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.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

When Pastor says "Lord,"

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of Confession and Resolve *(responsive)*

Letchumi Jesunathan

*Creator of the Heavenly Lights, you brought us to life by your word of truth,
We were made in your image, sons and daughters of all colors.*

*The cancerous wickedness of racism and homophobia has caused your children to suffer.
Prejudice, discrimination, and hatred have led to brokenness, violence and death.*

We confess that we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have allowed the sin of racism to divide us in what we have done and what we have not done; what we have said and what we have not said.

Purify our hearts and tame our tongues, we pray;

Give us courage to repent, to fight for righteousness and justice, and to love and embrace one another...

In the name of Jesus the Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

----- --Rev. Rhea Summit, Pastor, New Alexandria UMC (adapt.)

TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

Assurance of Grace

Here these words of assurance:

My dear siblings, the Spirit you have received is not a spirit of fear pushing you back into a life of complacency, but a Spirit of love and courage.

Amen! Where the Spirit is, there is liberty and justice.

Be hopeful! You are a forgiven family to whom the gifts of heaven have been promised and on whom the first installment has been poured.

Thanks be to God, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Pastor: As forgiven people living with the indwelled Spirit, 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

“With Great Power: Guide My Steps”

James Maxwell, Skyline High School, *Class of 2021*;
Former Graduates

THE NEXT LEVEL by LMUMC Kids

Cursive
The fifty states
Technology

Reach the next grade

State Capitals
Decimals
Division

Prepare for college

Multiplication
Times tables
Oceans & Continents

Get ready for a job

This COVID school year
Growing, evolving
Longing for friends

Finally, June is here

Beyond the horizon
Be prepared
Struggles of adulthood

Unknown future

Go to school
Learn to be ourselves
To live our life journey

God will always be there with our life's problems
God will be there when we need him
God will help with everything in our life

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Climb

W&M: Jessi Alexander & Jon Mabe

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

Forever Young

W&M: Rod Stewart,
Jim Cregan & Kevin Savigar

ASL by Soph1951

*May the good Lord be with you
Down every road you roam
And may sunshine and happiness
Surround you when you're far from home
And may you grow to be proud, dignified and true
And do unto others as you'd have done to you
Be courageous and be brave
And in my heart, you'll always stay
Forever young
Forever young
May good fortune be with you
May your guiding light be strong*

*Build a stairway to Heaven
With a prince or a vagabond
And may you never love in vain
And in my heart, you will remain*

*Forever young
Forever young
Forever young
For, forever young*

Yeah

*And when you finally fly away
I'll be hoping that I served you well
For all the wisdom of a lifetime
No one can ever tell
And whatever road you choose
I'm right behind you, win or lose*

*Forever young
Forever young
Forever young
Forever young
Forever young
Forever young
Forever young
Forever young*

CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Pam & Letchumi Jesunathan

As the song "I Hope You Dance" goes, with a little adaptation:

*"We hope you never lose your sense of wonder,
You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger,
May you never take one single breath for granted,
God forbid love ever leave you empty handed.*

*We hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean,
Whenever one door closes we hope one more opens,
Promise God that you'll give faith a fighting chance,
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance...
We hope you 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!"

DANCING BENEDICTION

I Hope You Dance

W&M: Tia Sillers & Mark Sanders
Dancers: Lake Merritt UMC Kids