

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



Tending the New Creation Worship Series

“LIVING OUT LOUD”

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*
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July 18, 2021

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Celebration of Divine Worship

WELCOME

INTROIT

This Is A Day of New Beginnings

UMH 383 (adapt.); Vs. 1

*This is the day of new beginnings,
time to remember and hold on
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.*

OPENING PRAYER *[responsive]*

Bob Cox & Warren Logan

Holy and Beloved God,

From near and far we come, arriving in pieces,
connected yet broken, fatigued from a year apart,
longing for reunion, safety, and past comfort.

We enter unsure of what we will find.

May we embrace your mystery.

We come clinging to control.

May we release ourselves to your power.

We reunite cautiously yet joyously.

May we celebrate the beauty of your community.

ALL: *You welcome us, God, with open loving arms.*

Beloved people,

Wherever you are, you are welcome.

Whoever you are, you are welcome.

However you are, you are welcome.

We pray for a posture of humility.

May we create space for the

stories of all in our community.

ALL: *We pray for rejuvenation of our physical
and emotional selves. With each breath,
we feel your presence. We pray for a deep
and full relationship with Your Spirit.*

May we embrace our dependence on you. Amen.

Elise Bjork

OPENING SONG

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord W&S 3008

Neil Wade, *guest accompanist*

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You*

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You*

*To see You high and lifted up, Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love, As we sing holy, holy, holy*

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You*

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You*

*To see You high and lifted up, Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love, As we sing holy, holy, holy*

*To see You high and lifted up, Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love, As we sing holy, holy, holy*

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy. I want to see you.

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy. I want to see you.

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 6:11-13 (MSG)

Bob Cox

Dear, dear Corinthians, I can't tell you how much I long for you to enter this wide-open, spacious life. We didn't fence you in. The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives aren't small, but you're living them in a small way. I'm speaking as plainly as I can and with great affection. Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively!

SONG

Beautiful

Nimo feat. Jason Joseph

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Pamela Kurtz

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 forever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of Confession and Resolve [unison]

Warren Logan

I've been living small, friends. Cramped and crumpled into myself, turned inward, caught up in comparison, crowded by expectations, lured by the enticements of this world: sales, success, being known, being valued.

This inward-focus? It's not a spacious place. It's not a wide-open, expansive place. It's a small, cold, lonely, bitter place.

Help me dream of living not small and crumpled inward, but openly and expansively. Amen.

<http://michellederusha.com/2013/05/4-steps-to-living-a-spacious-life/>

TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

Assurance of Grace

Here these words of assurance my dear siblings:

We are forgiven by a gracious a loving God. God calls us to living a wide-open, spacious life: Turn off. Turn outward. Turn to now. And, continually turn to God. Amen.

Passing the Peace

As forgiven people Living with the indwelled Spirit, let us share peace with our siblings in the world.

(If you are with us online, go to your windows and doors and share with the world: "the peace of Christ be with you!")

SHARING IN COMMUNION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MESSAGE

"Living Out Loud: Live Expansively"

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Wide Open

Austin French

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offering Words

Thanksgiving Song

This Is A Day of New Beginnings UMH 383 (adapt.); Verse 2

*For by the life and death of Jesus
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.*

LIVING AS THE CHURCH

GRATITUDE TIMES

CLOSING SONG

Don't Fence Me In

M: Cole Porter

W: Porter/Robert Fletcher

CLOSING PRAYER

Bob Cox & Warren Logan

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice praise our God. May we go to work for peace and justice in our world. Go, Open wide your hearts, Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively.

Go Now in Peace!

ALL: Go now in peace. Never be afraid. AMEN!

from Calvary Memorial United Church, Ontario

BENEDICTION **This Is A Day of New Beginnings** UMH 383 (adapt.); Verse 3

*Then let us, with the Spirit daring,
step from the past, and move with grace
through disappointment, guilt, and,
seeking new paths, to grieving find our place.*

WELCOME FOLKS OF LAKE PARK UMC!!!!
WE'RE SO GLAD TO WORSHIP GOD IN
CHRIST WITH YOU. WE LOOK FORWARD
TO FELLOWSHIPING, SERVING, AND
GROWING IN OUR FAITH TOGETHER.