



***IN JOINT FELLOWSHIP***

*Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.*

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1255 First Avenue      Oakland, CA 94606



**Tending the New Creation Worship Series**  
**Creating Racial and Ethnic Justice: Expanding Kinship**

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

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**August 8, 2021**  
**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
*Celebration of Divine Worship*

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**WELCOME**

**INTROIT**

Le P'ing (Rise to Greet the Sun)

LMUMC Handbells

Chinese Folk Song

arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

**OPENING PRAYER** *[responsive]*

Naomi Martin & Marlene Yamashita

How do we begin, Lord of all things new?

How do we begin to build a new world, new relationships, new understandings?

How do we start over and build a community of acceptance,  
a world of diversity, a family of trust?

Shall we begin with confession, with lament and sorrow?

*Of course, we have, and we will continue to confess our deepest sin of hatred and division. Until all among us realize how divided we are, how unjust we are, how broken we all are.*

*But surely there are beginnings to be made,  
words to be spoken, work to be done.*

*Surely there are ways to see with new eyes,  
brothers and sisters, who are different and yet the same.*

How do we begin, God of second chances?

*Let it begin with me.*

*Amen.*

*Derek C. Weber*

**SONGS AND SCRIPTURE**

**OPENING SONG**

In Christ There is No East or West

UMH 548

1. *In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north;  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.*
2. *In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.*
3. *Join hands, companions in the faith,  
whate'er your race may be!  
Who loves and serves the one in him,  
throughout the whole wide earth.*

4. *In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north;  
all Christly souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.*

## SCRIPTURE

**Mark 3: 31-35 (CEB)**

Naomi Martin

His mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside and sent word to him, calling for him. A crowd was seated around him, and those sent to him said, "Look, your mother, brothers, and sisters are outside looking for you."

He replied, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Looking around at those seated around him in a circle, he said, "Look, here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does God's will is my brother, sister, and mother."

## SONG

*Everyday People*

## 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*]

Marlene Yamashita

*Oh, Mysterious and Steadfast God,*

*Help me to be as fond of diversity as you are. Help all people everywhere to see diversity as strength and opportunity. Open our eyes to value different skin tones as beautiful expressions of your creation.*

*Forgive us for the ways we exclude and stereotype. Lead each of us into a deeper awareness of the strengths of community, until we all become as fond of diversity as you are, and rest in your unlimited love. Amen.*

*Sharon McCormick, Mountain Sky Conference (UMC)*

## TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

### **Assurance of Grace**

Here these words of assurance my dear siblings:

We are forgiven! God graces us with a renewed spirit to expand our understanding and practice of including all as our kin so that we may indeed help bring the kin-dom here on earth as it is in heaven. We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God!

*Praise be to God in heaven and on earth! 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

#### "Expanding Kinship"

Rev. Michael Yoshii, *Ret.*

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*We Are Unity* by: JOELLE

## OFFERINGS, LIVING AS THE CHURCH, AND GRATITUDES

### Offering Time

### Offering Words

### Thanksgiving Song

#### What a Mighty God We Serve (3x)

TFWS 3016

*What a mighty God we serve  
What a mighty God we serve  
Angels bow before You  
Heaven and earth adore You  
What a mighty God we serve*

### Living as the Church

### Gratitude Times

### CLOSING SONG

#### It's A Small World

by: Richard M. and Robert B. Sherman

*It's a world of laughter a world of tears  
It's a world of hopes and a world of fears  
There's so much that we share that it's time we're aware  
It's a small world after all.*

*It's a small world after all  
It's a small world after all  
It's a small world after all  
It's a small, small world  
There is just one moon and one golden sun  
And a smile means friendship to ev'ryone  
Though the mountains divide and the oceans are wide*

*It's a small world after all  
It's a small, small world*

## **CLOSING PRAYER** *[responsive]*

Naomi Martin & Marlene Yamashita

The world doesn't like change, God of transformation and growth.  
Never has, from the very beginning. We want things to stay the way they are,  
Or at least the way we imagine them to be.  
Peel back the changes until we get back to . . . what?

Some imagined "greatness" that was built on oppression?  
Some "innocent" time when we didn't worry about the suffering of those not like us?  
The world doesn't like change, God of justice and emancipation.  
Never has.

*Which is why you came among us to turn the world upside down.*

*Which is why your church, from the very beginning was proclaiming a new reality that turned all our hatreds on their heads.*

*Which is why the gospel was a threat, from its very inception,  
to the status quo, to the powers that be, to the way things are.  
And that gospel is still at work turning the world upside down.*

*Lord of upside-down and right-side up,  
Let me be a part of that which turns the world upside-down.  
Let me be one of those who don't fear kin-dom change.  
Amen.*

*Derek C. Weber*

## **BENEDICTION**

**This Little Light of Mine**  
Jim Meredith, Pianist

Harry Dixon Lowes;  
arr. Mark Hays