

**Lake Merritt United Methodist Church**

An Inclusive Christian Community of Oakland



LAKE PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IN JOINT FELLOWSHIP

*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

## Tending the New Creation Worship Series



*Banksy Mural on the West Bank Barrier, Qalqilya*

### ***Creating Racial and Ethnic Justice: Breaking Down Walls, Building Anew***

**Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor**

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**Joan Miller, Music Director**

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**August 15, 2021**  
**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Celebration of Divine Worship**

**WELCOME**

**Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor**

**INTROIT**

***Joshua Fit de Battle ob Jericho***

**Jim Meredith, piano**

**arr. Calvin Taylor**

**OPENING PRAYER [responsive]**

**Fran Cooper & Barbara Ganitch**

Break down the barriers that divide us, O Lord.

Tear down the walls of hostility and fear.

Melt the barbed wire of anger and hatred.

Breathe new life into your people, O God.

For we are called to newness in Christ Jesus.

We are all brothers and sisters through God's love.

Come, let us worship the God who removes obstacles from our paths.

Let us praise God who seeks to unite us in peace. **AMEN.**

Words by: Nancy C. Townley

**SONGS AND SCRIPTURE**

**Opening Song**

**We Are Called**

**TFWS 2172**

**1. Come! live in the light!**

*Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!*

*We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom of the city of God!*

**[Refrain:] We are called to act with justice.**

*We are called to love tenderly.*

*We are called to serve one another,  
to walk humbly with God.*

**2. Come! Open your heart!**

*Show your mercy to all those in fear!*

*We are called to be hope for the hopeless,  
so all hatred and blindness will be no more! [Refrain]*

**3. Sing! Sing a new song!**

*Sing of that great day when all will be one!*

*God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters  
and brothers united in love! [Refrain]*

**Scripture**

**Ephesians 2:19b-22 (CEV)**

You are citizens with everyone else who belongs to the family of God. You are like a building with the apostles and prophets as the foundation and with Christ as the most important stone. Christ is the one who holds the building together and makes it grow into a holy temple for the Lord. And you are part of that building Christ has built as a place for God's own Spirit to live.

**Song**

**Better Place**

Lyrics & Music by: Playing for Change

## **Prayers of the People**

When the Pastor says "*Lord,*"  
Please respond: "***Hear our Prayers.***"

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Ecumenical Version (UMH 894)

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]***

Fran Cooper & Barbara Ganitch

The circle of love is repeatedly broken because of the sin of exclusion. We create separate circles: the inner circle and the outer circle, the circle of power and the circle of despair, the circle of privilege and the circle of deprivation.

***Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.***

The circle of love is broken whenever there is alienation, whenever there is misunderstanding, whenever there is insensitivity and a hardening of the heart.

***Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.***

The circle of love is broken whenever we cannot see eye to eye, whenever we cannot link hand to hand, whenever we cannot live heart to heart and affirm our differences.

***Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.***

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

### **Assurance of Grace**

Here these words of assurance my dear siblings:

Through God's grace we are forgiven, by the mercy of our Creator, through the love of the Christ, and in the power of the Spirit. Let us rejoice and be glad.

***Glory to God, we are forgiven! Amen!!***

Words by: "Circle of Love," Woman Prayer Woman

Song by Miriam Therese Winter,

Adapted by Native American Ministry Presence, Denver, CO.

### **Passing the Peace**

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

## **SHARING IN COMMUNION OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

### **MESSAGE**

**"Breaking Down Walls, Building Anew"**

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**We Shall Overcome: Love Will Rise Again**

by: Nimo Patel/Daniel Nahmod | Empty Hands Music

# OFFERINGS, LIVING AS THE CHURCH, GRATITUDES

Offering Time

Offering Words

Thanksgiving Song    **What a Mighty God We Serve (3x)**    W&S 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

**Come, Let Us Dream**

W&S 3157

1. *Come, let us dream God's dream again.  
Come, one and all, let us ascend  
the mountain top where those of old  
saw God's new day on earth unfold.*
2. *The lame shall walk, the blind shall see,  
the doors swing wide, all prisoners free,  
the lowly raised, the proud brought low.  
This is God's dream: let justice flow.*
3. *When hatred ends and war shall cease,  
so all may dwell in deepest peace,  
then be assured the time is near  
when perfect love casts out all fear.*
4. *But know the cost of claiming sight  
of God's new day, of wrongs made right,  
for some have paid the highest price,  
their lives for us, a sacrifice.*
5. *Prophets are scorned in their own lands  
and martyrs slain by righteous hands;  
Though dreamers die the dream will live  
for we have yet our lives to give.*

**BENEDICTION *[responsive]***

Fran Cooper & Barbara Ganitch

Let us work to end hatred and division.

*Let us strive to bring all people together as one.*

Let us be those who heal ancient hatreds.

*Let us be "gate openers."*

Let us break down walls.

*For now, and evermore. Amen.*

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