



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

1255 First Avenue Oakland, CA 94606

Beguiled By Beauty: Celebrating LGBTQ+ Siblings



THE SPARKLE CREED

by Rev. Rachel Small Stokes

I believe in the non-binary God whose pronouns are plural.

I believe in Jesus Christ, their child, who wore a fabulous tunic and had two dads, and who saw everyone as a sibling child of God.

I believe in the rainbow Spirit, who shatters our image of one white light and refracts it into a rainbow of gorgeous diversity.

I believe in the church of everyday saints, as numerous, creative, and resilient as patches on the AIDS quilt, whose feet are grounded in mud and whose eyes gaze at the stars in Wonder.

I believe in the calling to each of us, that love is love is love, so beloved, let us love.

I believe, glorious God. Help my unbelief.

Amen.

“Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”

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September 5, 2021
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Celebration of Divine Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

INTROIT

Singing for Our Lives
Jim Meredith, *piano*

Holly Near

OPENING PRAYER [*responsive*]

Sharon Cropsey

Divine Goodness, Holy One,
Pause us for this moment,
bear us up in this time,
hold us for eternity.

We offer ourselves in connection with you.
We allow ourselves this love from you.
We release ourselves into your presence.
And all the people say "Amen"

Worship Design Studio

A SONG, SCRIPTURE AND A PRAYER

Opening Song

Fearfully, Wonderfully Made

Songs for the Holy Other

W & M Nathan Crabtree and Erik Whitehill



1. You were known, known be - fore birth, wo - ven deep,
2. You be - long, you are re - deemed. Loved by God,
3. When you walk, walk through the flame. God is there,



deep in the earth. You were formed from star - dust. Sing praise! You are
God is well pleased. Now em - brace what God has or - dained: You are
call - ing your name. God has said, "Do not be a - fraid." You are



fear - ful - ly, won - der - ffly made Yes you are



fear - ful - ly, won - der - ffly made.

Vs 13-14

For you created my inmost being;
 you knit me together in my mother's womb.
 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
 your works are wonderful,
 I know that full well.

Prayer for Reflection

*We come today, representing all the majesty of creation
 Diverse and beautiful, blessed and beloved, all made in the image of the Creator of all things
 We come today, called to this time and this place by an infinite God.
 Who hears our cries and responds with love and mercy.
 We come today, Transgender, Nonbinary, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Intersex, Gay Queer,
 Ally
 We come today knowing you will listen and answer our needs.
 We come today, to deliver our joined prayers of hope.
 We come today, a people mourning still our losses, still recovering from the ravages of the
 Covid-19 pandemic, and the pandemic of institutionalized racism, and homophobia that has
 plagued our world for too many centuries.
 We come today, knowing you care for us.
 We come today, knowing that even when others reject us, your arms are open to offer comfort.
 We come.*

Words by: Kimi Floyd Reisch (Adapt.)

Prayers of the People

Rev. Pamela Kurtz

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]**

Rose Lynn Abesamis-Bell

*Lord God, You are the perfect Creator, and You tell us we are fearfully and wonderfully made.
 We confess that our pride prevents us from believing this truth. We question Your craftsmanship
 and often wish that you had made us a different way. Heal us of this sinful tendency. Help us
 celebrate how You have made us in Your image with perfect purpose and care. Lord, we know
 that You call us into Your holy service to use our gifts to further Your Kingdom on earth. We
 confess that we find ourselves using our God-given gifts to further our own agendas instead of
 Yours. Renew our hearts and strengthen us. Go with us as we do the work You have given each of
 us to do. In the powerful Name of Christ. Amen.*

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

Assurance of Grace

Here these words of assurance my dear siblings:

God is always here for us, waiting to welcome us back with open arms, and setting us on our feet again. In turning again to God, we know we are forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen.

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

“Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Rude

Magic Cover (singer: Lily Brown)

*Saturday morning jumped out of bed
And put on my best suit
Got in my car and raced like a jet
All the way to you
Knocked on your door with heart in my hand
To ask you a question
'Cause I know that you're an old-fashioned man, yeah
Can I have your daughter for the rest of my life?
Say yes, say yes 'cause I need to know
You say I'll never get your blessing 'til the day I die
Tough luck, my friend, but the answer is 'No'

Why you gotta be so rude?
Don't you know I'm human too?
Why you gotta be so rude?
I'm gonna marry her anyway

Marry that girl
Marry her anyway
Marry that girl
Yeah, no matter what you say
Marry that girl
And we'll be a family
Why you gotta be so
Rude

I hate to do this, you leave no choice
Can't live without her
Love me or hate me we will be both
Standing at that altar
Or we will run away*

*To another galaxy, you know
You know she's in love with me
She will go anywhere I go*

*Can I have your daughter for the rest of my life?
Say yes, say yes 'cause I need to know
You say I'll never get your blessing 'til the day I die
Tough luck, my friend, 'cause the answer's still 'No''*

*Why you gotta be so rude?
Don't you know I'm human too?
Why you gotta be so rude?
I'm gonna marry her anyway*

*Marry that girl
Marry her anyway
Marry that girl
No matter what you say
Marry that girl
And we'll be a family
Why you gotta be so
Rude
Rude*

*Can I have your daughter for the rest of my life?
Say yes, say yes 'cause I need to know
You say, I'll never get your blessing 'til the day I die
Tough luck, my friend, but 'No' still means 'No'!*

*Why you gotta be so rude?
Don't you know I'm human too?
Why you gotta be so rude?
I'm gonna marry her anyway*

*Marry that girl
Marry her anyway
Marry that girl
No matter what you say
Marry that girl
And we'll be a family
Why you gotta be so
Rude*

*Why you gotta be so
Rude
Why you gotta be so rude?*

LIVING AS THE CHURCH, GRATITUDES, OFFERINGS

Living as the Church

Gratitude Times

Offering Time

Offering Words

Thanksgiving Song

For Everyone Born

W&S 3149

*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.*

CLOSING SONG

Singing for Our Lives

Words & Music by: Holly Near

*We are a gentle, angry people
And we are singing, singing for our lives
We are a gentle, angry people
And we are singing, singing for our lives
We are young and old together
And we are singing, singing for our lives
We are young and old together
And we are singing, singing for our lives
We are a land of many colors
And we are singing, singing for our lives
We are a land of many colors
And we are singing, singing for our lives.
We are gay and straight together
And we are singing, singing for our lives
We are gay and straight together
And we are singing, singing for our lives
We are a peaceful, loving people
And we are singing, singing for our lives
We are a peaceful, loving people
And we are singing, singing for our lives.*

BENEDICTION [unison]

Rose Lynn Abesamis-Bell

*The world is so varied and beautiful
Seek wisdom wherever it is to be found.
And may the goodness of the Creator,
the companionship of the Christ,
and the insight of the Spirit,
infuse your life now and always. Amen*

WDS

POSTLUDE

Since Jesus Came into My Heart

Jim Meredith, *piano*

TFWS 2140;
arr. Mark Hayes

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