



IN JOINT FELLOWSHIP

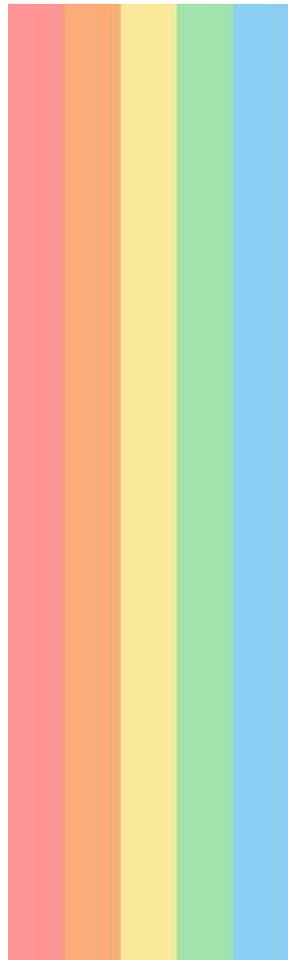
*Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.*

(510) 465-4793

[www.lakemerrittumc.org](http://www.lakemerrittumc.org)

1255 First Avenue Oakland, CA 94606

## 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.

## *“From Beauty to Compassion and Justice”*

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

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September 26, 2021  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
*Celebration of Divine Worship*

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WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

INTROIT

*Singing for Our Lives*  
Jim Meredith, *piano*

Holly Near

OPENING PRAYER [*responsive*]

Phyllis Elving & Rose Lynn Abesamis-Bell

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

We offer our lives in service to your creation  
We dedicate ourselves to increasing beauty in this world  
We commit to compassion and action  
And all the people say, "Amen."

Worship Design Studio (WDS)

## A SONG, SCRIPTURE AND A PRAYER

Opening Song

*The Dove Will Fly on Mended Wing*

W: Tim Reaburn

Tune: O Waly Waly (UMH 408)

*Songs for the Holy Other*

1. *Religion, culture, creed and race each human spirit and each face we celebrate,  
we dance and sing the talents here each one might bring.*
2. *And take away a new found song, a new found voice to act on wrongs.  
To trust, to heal, to help us cope, to stand as one, renewing hope.*
3. *A people stand, a people call: come gather here and welcome all.  
Diversify and celebrate that hopelessness is nor our fate.*
4. *And chains will fall, the shackles break, the earth will rise, and powers quake,  
justice will roll, and freedom sing, the dove will fly on mended wing.*
5. *Religion, culture, creed and race each human spirit and each face we celebrate,  
we dance and sing the talents here each one might bring.*

Scripture

Micah 6:1, 6-8 (CEV)

Phyllis Elving

The Lord said to his people:

Come and present your case to the hills and mountains.

What offering should I bring when I bow down to worship the Lord God Most High? Should I try to please him by sacrificing calves a year old? Will thousands of sheep or rivers of olive oil make God satisfied with me? Should I sacrifice to the Lord my first-born child as payment for my terrible sins?

The Lord God has told us what is right and what he demands:  
“See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern, and humbly obey your God.”

## **Musical Prayer for Reflection      As Colors in the Sky**

*Songs for the Holy Other*  
W&M: Dan Damon

*As colors in the sky, we move and blend in love,  
a touch of this, a mix, a match, as gifts from heaven above.*

*Our genders may seem fixed, but even these may change  
as we find beauty in-between that may at first seem strange.*

*Our bodies may not match the way we feel inside,  
but we can change, transform, and find your love still deep and wide.*

*So if we break the mold traditions put in place,  
let us with courage live our lives with kindness, love, and grace.*

*Creating God, you dance, you move as one in three.  
Come show us, by your rainbow light, our shared humanity.*

*The heavens and the earth are made new every day,  
help us discover by your grace, new truth, new life, new ways.*

## **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

*Oh Holy Flame, spark of all creation,  
You who we greet as the Great Flame in our lives,  
Providing shining light for our vision  
And soothing warmth for our hearts;  
Help us be attentive witnesses today  
To the extraordinary wonder  
That walks among us  
Daily in grace.*

*As we remember the violence  
That has destroyed so many lives  
Of people who you call Beloved.  
Grant us the strength and resolve  
To look upon this great pain  
In reverence and sobriety,  
Without turning away  
Or denying the reality  
Of this terror.*

*So, too, kindle within us power  
To not let pain deter us  
From struggling onward  
In justice and in peace  
To make the present  
A different story.*

(Confession and Resolve and Assurance of Grace from Rev. Terry Williams)

## TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

### Assurance of Grace *(responsive)*

Rev. Pam and Rose Lynn

Here these words of assurance my dear siblings:

When we return to God, God forgives us. So,  
As the fires of experience burn scorching hot  
In the life of every affected person,  
Grant that these fires may burst forth  
Into a world eager for the warmth  
Of the truth of abundant and thriving lives.

Forge from this fire a new world -  
One filled with justice and peace

**Together**

One blessed with by strength and tenderness

**Together**

One called to challenge and soothe

**Together**

One able to strain and to heal

**Together**

One that is grieving and rejoicing

**Together.**

**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

### “From Beauty to Compassion and Justice”

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, Pastor

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### Litany

W: Langston Hughes; M: John Musto

Christabel Nunoo, Oakland, CA

Graduate of Young Musicians Choral Orchestra Program & Student of Jim Meredith

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oml\\_SLlYknE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oml_SLlYknE)

*Gather up*

*In the arms of your pity*

*The sick, the depraved,  
The desperate, the tired,  
All the scum  
Of our weary city  
Gather up  
In the arms of your pity,  
Gather up  
In the arms of your love -  
Those who expect  
No love from above.*

## LIVING AS THE CHURCH, GRATITUDES, OFFERINGS

Living as the Church

Gratitude Times

Offering Time

Offering Words

Thanksgiving Song

### For Everyone Born

**W: Shirley Erena Murray M: Brian Mann**

*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

### Take My Life, and Let it Be

UMH 399

- 1. Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.*
- 2. Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.  
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.*
- 3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.*

**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

Just as I am Without One Plea  
Jim Meredith, *piano*

arr. Mark Hayes

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