

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

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1255 First Avenue Oakland, CA 94606

Methodists: Made...Making...Moving...



The church changes the
world not by making converts
but by making disciples.

John Wesley

*“Methodists: The History of
An Accidental Christian Denomination”*

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October 10, 2021
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Celebration of Divine Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

INTROIT

“O Thou Who Camest from Above” (UMH 501)

Jim Meredith, *piano*

OPENING PRAYER [*responsive*]

Nancy Vail & Jane Sliheet

Morning Prayer by John Wesley

O that we could begin this day in devout meditations,
in joy unspeakable, and in blessing and praising You,
who hast given us such good hope and everlasting consolation.

*Lift up our minds above all these little things below,
which are apt to distract our thoughts;
and keep them above till our hearts are fully bent
to seek You every day, in the way wherein Jesus has gone before us. Amen.*

A SONG, SCRIPTURE AND A PRAYER

Opening Song

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

UMH 57

Words: Charles Wesley; (Vs. 1-3, 5, 7)

1. *O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!*
2. *My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.*
3. *Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.*
5. *He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.*
7. *In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven;
anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.*

Scripture

Romans 8:9-17 (MSG)

Nancy Vail

But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely

as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!

So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!

This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!

Prayer for Reflection

Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

Brooksville Wesleyan Church

*I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside by thee.
Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

Prayers of the People

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

The Lord's Prayer

* Please feel free to use the name of your choice for God that speaks to your soul

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.

Ecumenical Version (UMH 894)

HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of Confession and Resolve *[responsive]*

Nancy Vail & Jane Sliheet

Leader: We are those who seek to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ, but sometimes we fall short. Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and submitting our hearts so that we do not deceive ourselves and cut ourselves away from God. Let us pray:

People: Father God, You have set forth the way of life through Your Son Jesus Christ, whom You love dearly. We shamefully confess that we have been slow to learn of Him and have been reluctant to follow Him. You have spoken and called to us but we have not listened. You have

revealed Your beauty to us, but we have been blind. You have stretched out Your hands to us through our friends, but we have passed by them. We have accepted Your gifts and offered little thanks. We are unworthy of Your unchanging love.

(Prayer by John Wesley, from Modern Adaption of John Wesley's Covenant Service; Dr. Jonathan Powers)

TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

Assurance of Grace

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

God, the Father of all mercies, is faithful to cleanse us from our sins and restore us to Christ's image. Praise and glory be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

(Prayer by John Wesley, from Modern Adaption of John Wesley's Covenant Service; Dr. Jonathan Powers)

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 “Methodists: The History of an Accidental Christian Denomination”

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A Charge to Keep I Have

UMH 413

Words: Charles Wesley; Tune: Trentham (UMH 420)

- 1. A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify,
a never-dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky.*
- 2. To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill;
O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will!*
- 3. Arm me with jealous care, as in thy sight to live,
and oh, thy servant, Lord, prepare a strict account to give!*
- 4. Help me to watch and pray, and on thyself rely,
assured, if I my trust betray, I shall forever die.*

LIVING AS THE CHURCH, GRATITUDES, OFFERINGS

Living as the Church

Gratitude Times

Offering Time

Offering Words

THANKSGIVING SONG

And Are We Yet Alive (Vs. 1)

UMH 553

Words: Charles Wesley

*And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!*

Words: Charles Wesley; Tune: Sussex Carol (UMH 642)

1. *Give me the faith which can remove and sink the mountain to a plain;
give me the childlike praying love, which longs to build thy house again;
thy love, let it my heart o'er-power, and all my simple soul devour.*
2. *I would the precious time redeem, and longer live for this along,
to spend and to be spent for them who have not yet my Savior known;
fully on these my mission prove, and only breathe, to breathe thy love.*
3. *My talents, gifts, and graces, Lord, into thy blessed hands receive;
and let me live to preach thy word, and let me to thy glory live;
my every sacred moment spend in publishing the sinner's Friend.*
4. *Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart with boundless charity divine,
so shall I all my strength exert, and love them with a zeal like thine,
and lead them to thy open side, the sheep for whom the Shepherd died.*

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Jane Sliheet

Gracious God, you raised up John and Charles Wesley to lead the people named Methodist within the Body of Christ; their followers to be bridges of angels; and countless others, who have burned with love. Add us now to their number, so that in faith and holiness, we may rejoice in your grace, repent of our wrong-turnings and together find hope in your kingdom. Stir up the gift of your Spirit in us and all your people: may our inward ear be opened and a flame of sacred love burn in our prayer and praise, our proclamation and our service, till all receive the good news of your salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(The Revd. Kenneth Howcroft, President of the Methodist Conference, 2014/15)***BENEDICTION****Rule of Life**

W&S 3117

18th cent. aphorism, attributed to John Wesley

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can, in all the places you can,
at all the times you can, to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.*

POSTLUDE**Just as I Am Without One Plea**

comp. Charlotte Elliott

Jim Meredith, *piano*

arr. Mark Hayes

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