



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

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

**Though we cannot think  
alike, may we not love  
alike? May we not be of  
one heart, though we are  
not of one opinion?  
Without all doubt, we  
may.**

**-from a letter in the  
Works of John Wesley**

### *“Methodists: Disciplined, Radical Living”*

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October 17, 2021  
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost  
*Celebration of Divine Worship*

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WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

INTROIT

“O Thou Who Camest from Above”

(UMH 501)

Jim Meredith, *piano*

OPENING PRAYER [*responsive*]

Sue Dickey & Mi Chun

Liberating God, we give thanks for that amazing assurance of your love that came to John Wesley, and comes to each one of us. May we always rejoice in your mercy and grace;  
**your kingdom come. Your will be done.**

Redeeming God, your mercy is immense and free. May we know in our hearts the freedom from sin that comes to us in the saving work of Christ, who died for all;  
**your kingdom come. Your will be done.**

Gracious God, as you have redeemed us, so, by the power of your Spirit at work in us, may we proclaim your glorious name in all places, that the world might both taste and see the riches of your grace;  
**your kingdom come. Your will be done.**

Saving God, in your Son you call us into a new Covenant with you. May we, by your divine grace, put ourselves aside and seek to glorify you in all we say and do;  
**your kingdom come. Your will be done.**

Incarnate God, in Jesus we see your Word made flesh. Stamp your image on our faces and hearts, that in all things we may show your love and that our actions may be proof that we belong to you;  
**your kingdom come Your will be done.**

Calling God, you raised up the people called Methodists to proclaim the evangelical faith. Pour out the Spirit of your love on your Church to revive us in our calling as your servants in this age;  
**your kingdom come. Your will be done.**

Welcoming God, you call all humankind to the feast of your gospel. We pray for those who have not heard, who do not know, or who resist the power of your love;  
**your kingdom come. Your will be done.**

Almighty God, may your love fire the nations, that all might catch the flame, that your kingdom may be known throughout the world;  
**your kingdom come. Your will be done.**

Loving God, in all things may we be attentive to your word, relying on your grace and the power of your Spirit at work in us;  
**your kingdom come. Your will be done.**

*Inspired by a hymnody from Charles Wesley*

**A SONG, SCRIPTURE AND A PRAYER**

1. *Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.*
2. *Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*
3. *Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*
4. *Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

## Scripture

### Galatians 19-21 (MSG)

Sue Dickey

What actually took place is this: I tried keeping rules and working my head off to please God, and it didn't work. So I quit being a "law man" so that I could be God's man. Christ's life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not going to go back on that.

Is it not clear to you that to go back to that old rule-keeping, peer-pleasing religion would be an abandonment of everything personal and free in my relationship with God? I refuse to do that, to repudiate God's grace. If a living relationship with God could come by rule-keeping, then Christ died unnecessarily.

## Song for Reflection [Video]

### **Wesley Prayer (Come Like a Fire)**

by: Mark Swayze

1. *I am Yours, no longer my own  
Put me to whatever You will  
Place me with whomever You choose  
I am Yours and You are mine*
2. *I am Yours, no longer my own  
Raise me up or bring me low  
Use my all or lay me aside  
I am Yours and You are mine*

**[CHORUS]**

*Come like a fire, Oh  
Burn in us (x4)*

**[BRIDGE]**

*Let me be full  
Let me be empty  
Let me have all things  
Let me have nothing (3x)*

**[CHORUS]**

*Come like a fire, Oh  
Burn in us (x4)*

**Prayers of the People**

**Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Ecumenical Version (UMH 894)

\*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.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**Prayer of Confession and Resolve** *[responsive]*

Mi Chun & Sue Dickey

*People: Forgive us for when we waste time and when we misuse the gifts you have given us.  
Forgive us for when we have made excuses for the wrong things we have done and when we have purposefully avoided responsibility.*

Leader: Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good and that we have not been ready to carry our cross. Forgive us that we have not allowed Your love to work through us to help others and that we have not made their suffering our own. Forgive us for those times when instead of working for unity we made it hard for others to live with us because of our lack of forgiveness, inconsiderate judgment, and quick criticism.

*People: Forgive us for when we have not tried to reconcile with others and when we have been slow to seek redemption.*

Leader: Forgive us also for these sins that we silently confess to you now.

*(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*

## 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: Disciplined, Radical Living”

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### Spirit of Faith, Come Down UMH 332

Words: Charles Wesley; Tune: Diademata-SMD (UMH 327)

1. *Spirit of faith, come down, reveal the things of God,  
and make to us the Godhead known, and witness with the blood.*

*'Tis thine the blood to apply and give us eyes to see,  
who did for every sinner die hath surely died for me.*

2. *No one can truly say that Jesus is the Lord,  
unless thou take the veil away and breathe the living Word.*

*Then, only then, we feel our interest in his blood,  
and cry with joy unspeakable, "Thou art my Lord, my God!"*

3. *O that the world might know the all-atoning Lamb!  
Spirit of faith, descend and show the virtue of his name;  
the grace which all may find, the saving power, impart,  
and testify to humankind, and speak in every heart.*

4. *Inspire the living faith (which whosoe'er receive,  
the witness in themselves they have and consciously believe),  
the faith that conquers all, and doth the mountain move,  
and saves whoe'er on Jesus call, and perfects them in love.*

## LIVING AS THE CHURCH, GRATITUDES, OFFERINGS

Living as the Church

Gratitude Times

Offering Time

Offering Words

### THANKSGIVING SONG

### And Are We Yet Alive 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!*

CLOSING SONG    **O Thou Who Camest from Above**    UMH 501

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley

1. *O Thou who camest from above, the pure celestial fire to impart  
kindle a flame of sacred love upon the mean altar of my heart.*
2. *There let it for thy glory burn with inextinguishable blaze,  
and trembling to its source return, in humble prayer and fervent praise.*
3. *Jesus, confirm my heart's desire to work and speak and think for thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire, and still stir up thy gift in me.*
4. *Ready for all thy perfect will, my acts of faith and love repeat,  
till death thy endless mercies seal, and make my sacrifice complete.*

CLOSING PRAYER (*unison*)

Mi Chun

*Loving Jesus, let us step out with you in faith; grant us understanding to know what we need to do,  
grant us courage to go where we are needed, grant us strength to face our difficulties, grant us  
determination to overcome our disappointments, grant us wisdom to serve you well. Lord Jesus,  
let us step out with you in faith, so that your light shines far beyond our way, bringing your truth  
to many. Amen.*

(Andrea Davis)

BENEDICTION

**Rule of Life**    W&S 3117

18<sup>th</sup> 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

**Go Make of All Disciples**

(UMH 571)

Jim Meredith, *piano*

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