

**Lake Merritt United Methodist Church**

An Inclusive Christian Community of Oakland



**LAKE PARK**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*IN JOINT FELLOWSHIP*

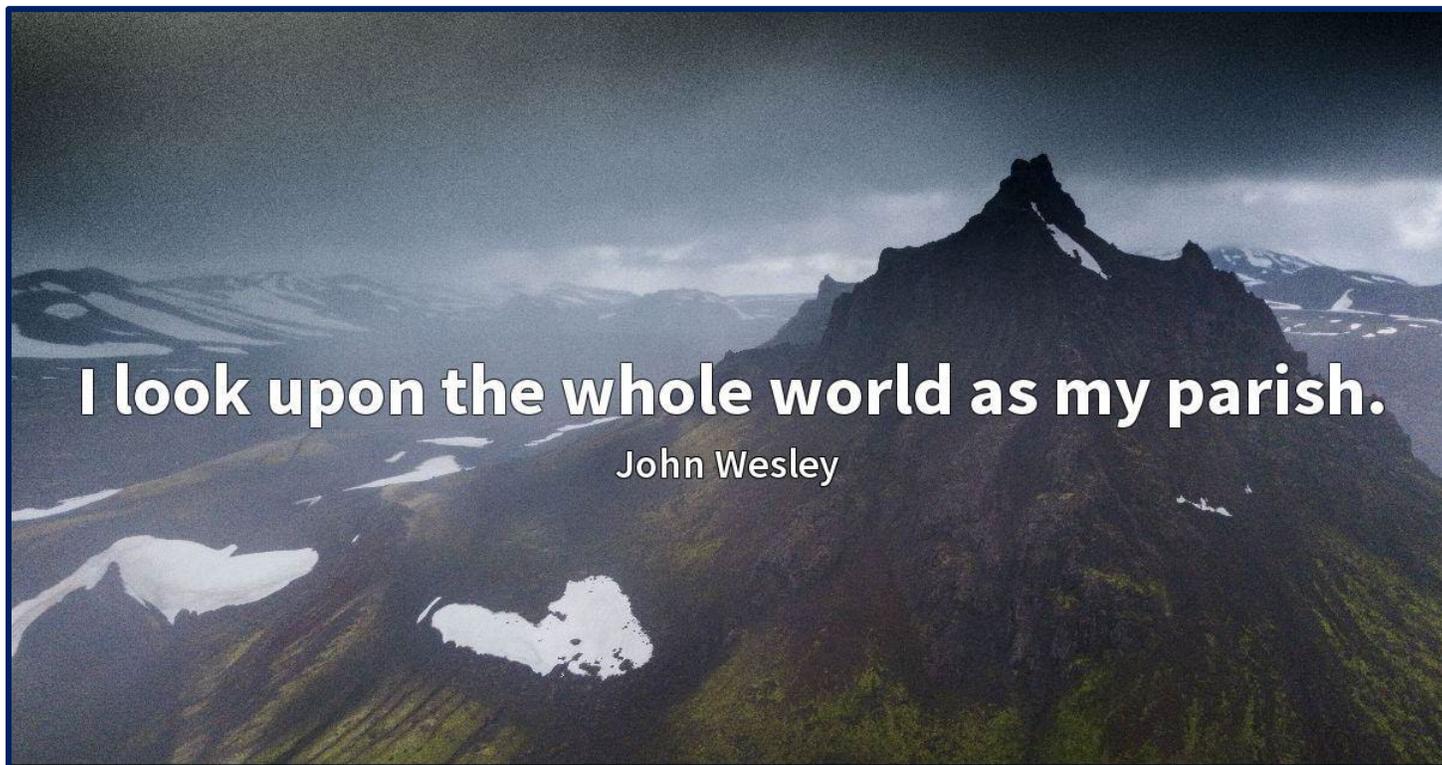
*Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation,  
making our work and the church relevant and visible.*

(510) 465-4793

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

1255 First Avenue Oakland, CA 94606

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



**I look upon the whole world as my parish.**

John Wesley

***“Methodist is a Verb:  
Faith and Love in Action”***

**Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor***

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October 24, 2021  
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost  
*Celebration of Divine Worship*

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WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

INTROIT

“Lead Me, Lord” (UMH 473)

Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley

LMUMC Handbell Choir

OPENING PRAYER *[unison]*

Susannah Wood

*God who is found in beauty and brokenness, holy and gracious one, whose heart is torn by the suffering of your children, you long for a world of justice and plenty for all. Liberate us to share in that freedom offered by your kingdom. Open our eyes to sense your presence in places of despair and fear, open our ears to hear your call to be salt and light in the world, melt our hearts, convert us to the needs of the other, and move us to be your people, a people of justice and care, for our world, for friend and stranger. Amen.*

*(The Revd Andrew Wood)*

## A SONG, SCRIPTURE AND A PRAYER

Opening Song

See, How Great a Flame Aspires

UMH 541

*Words: Charles Wesley; Sung to: St. George's Windsor (UMH 694)*

1. *See how great a flame aspires, kindled by a spark of grace!  
Jesu's love the nations fires, sets the kingdoms on a blaze;  
To bring fire on earth he came, kindled in some hearts it is,  
O that all might catch the flame, all partake the glorious bliss!*
2. *When he first the work begun, small and feeble was his day;  
Now the word doth swiftly run, now it wins its widening way;  
More and more it spreads and grows, ever mighty to prevail,  
Sin's strong-holds it now o'erthrows, shakes the trembling gates of hell.*
3. *Sons of God, your Saviour praise! He the door hath opened wide;  
He hath given the word of grace, Jesu's word is glorified;  
Jesus, mighty to redeem, he alone the work hath wrought;  
Worthy is the work of him, him who spake a world from nought.*
4. *Saw ye not the cloud arise, little as a human hand?  
Now it spreads along the skies, hangs o'er all the thirsty land;  
Lo! the promise of a shower drops already from above;  
But the Lord will shortly pour all the Spirit of his love!*

Be very sure now, you who have been trained to a self-sufficient maturity, that you enter into a generous common life with those who have trained you, sharing all the good things that you have and experience.

Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.

So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.

## Scriptural Response

## Covenant Prayer

W&amp;S 3115

*1. Lord, I am not mine, but yours alone. Let your will be done and not my own.  
Put me where you will, and let me serve; in everything I do, let me endure.*

***This is my prayer, Lord, to you. My promise and my vow, strong and true.  
And the covenant I make on earth, let it be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.***

*2. Father, Son, and Spirit hear my cry, forever I am yours and you are mine.  
Father, son and Spirit hear my cry, forever I am yours and you are mine.*

***This is my prayer, Lord, to you. My promise and my vow, strong and true.  
And the covenant I make on earth, let it be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.***

[Bridge:]

*Let me be employed for you, laid aside for you, lifted high for you or brought low.  
Let me be full, let me empty. Let me have all things or nothing.*

*3. Lord, I am not mine, but yours alone. Let your will be done and not my own.  
Put me where you will, and let me serve; in everything I do, let me endure.*

***This is my prayer, Lord, to you. My promise and my vow, strong and true.  
And the covenant I make on earth, let it be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.***

## 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

Leader: We now confess to You our sins.

*People: Please forgive us for the poverty of our worship...  
for the selfishness of our prayers...  
for our inconsistency and unbelief...  
for the ways we neglect fellowship and Your grace...  
for our hesitation to tell others about Christ...  
for the ways we deceive others...*

*(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

#### “Methodist is a Verb: Faith and Love in Action”

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### Listen, God is Calling (Neno Lake Mungo)

*Tanzanian Tune arr. Martha Lynn Thompson*

LMUMC Hand Bells

Jim Meredith, *Percussion*

## 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!*

CLOSING SONG

#### Let Us Plead for Faith Alone

UMH 385

*Words: Charles Wesley; Tune: Orientis Partibus (UMH 192)*

1. Let us plead for faith alone, faith which by our works is shown;  
God it is who justifies, only faith the grace applies.
2. Active faith that lives within, conquers hell and death and sin,  
hallows whom it first made whole, forms the Savior in the soul.
3. Let us for this faith contend, sure salvation is the end;  
heaven already is begun, everlasting life is won.
4. Only let us persevere till we see our Lord appear,  
never from the Rock remove, be saved by faith which works by love.

## CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Susannah Wood

*God, loving guide, graciously, and at such cost, you offer an invitation to all to follow you. Stir, we pray, in every heart a longing for you: grant us discernment that we may recognise your direction; grant us courage that we may step out and follow; grant us deep trust in you, loving God, the one who holds and promises never to abandon us. As we follow you, Lord God, we pray that in the power of your Spirit, you will illumine your people with your light, that you will form the lives of those who commit to you, that every aspect of our lives together will point to Jesus and that your people will be a blessing to many. Amen.*

*(The Revd Heather Morris, President of the Irish Methodist Conference 2013/2014)*

## 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

### O For a Thousand Tongues

arr. Mark Hayes

*Words: Charles Wesley  
Jim Meredith, piano*

REMEMBER: We are ALL worshipping online at 11:15 am. with our Cal-NeV  
Annual Conference Session being held in Sacramento, CA

On OCTOBER 31, 2021

Link: <https://www.cnumc.org/>

On the website, look for the link to live worship beginning at 11:15 am on  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021.

[VIEW ALL SERVICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE!](#)