



IN JOINT FELLOWSHIP

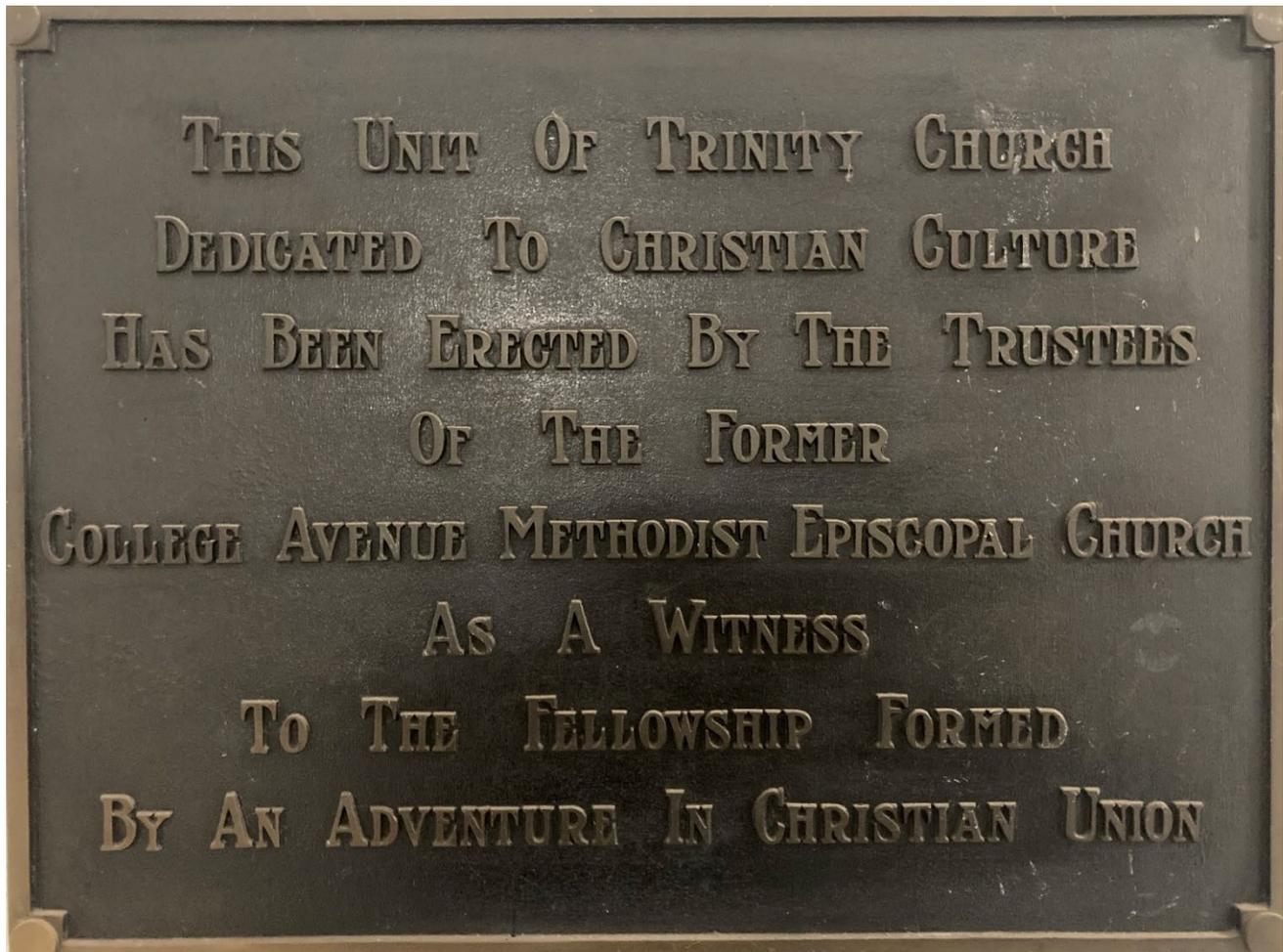
*Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation,
making our work and the church relevant and visible.*

(510) 465-4793

www.lakemerrittumc.org

1255 First Avenue Oakland, CA 94606

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor

pastor@lakemerrittumc.org

Joan Miller, Music Director

lakeparkpastor@gmail.com

Jim Meredith, Pianist

music@lakemerrittumc.org

Scott Jensen, Trumpet

Neil Wade, Church Administrator office@lakemerrittumc.org

olp.central@gmail.com

November 7, 2021
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Celebration of Divine Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

INTROIT

“When the Saints Go Marching In”

Traditional

OPENING PRAYER [*responsive*] (*based on Hebrews 12:1*)

Jim Clardy & Becky Dean

We remember, O God...

The countless saints of history

who have blazed a trail of courage through time,

We remember, O God...

*The tender touch of loved ones, the example of heroes,
the healing words of comforters, the remarkable acts of fearless ones.*

We remember, O God...

*The gentle strength of grandmothers, the loyalty of friends,
the kindness of strangers, the joy of children, the sacrifice of parents.*

We remember, O God...

*The supreme love of Jesus, the blessing of his Spirit,
the reminder of his words, the sharing of his suffering, the glory of his resurrection:
shown forth in the lives of his disciples, young and old, dead and living,
articulate and silent, strange and familiar, brilliant and ordinary.*

We remember in every time and place the saints of God who have shown us the Lord.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...

let us worship God with joy! Amen!!

(*Desperate Preacher's website*)

A SONG, SCRIPTURE AND A PRAYER

Opening Song

Rejoice in God's Saints

UMH 708

- 1. Rejoice in God's saints today and all days.
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,
Their depth of adoring Lord help us to share.*
- 2. Some march with events to turn them God's way.
Some need to withdraw the better to pray.
Some carry the gospel through fire and through flood,
Our world is their parish their purpose is God.*
- 3. Rejoice in those saints unpraised and unknown,
Who bear someone's cross or shoulder their own.
They share our complaining our comforts our cares.
What patience in caring what courage is theirs.*

**4. Rejoice in God's saints today and all days.
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
In loving in living, they prove it is true,
Their way of self-giving Lord leads us to you**

Scripture

Hebrews 11:39-12:3 (CEB)

Jim Clardy

All these people didn't receive what was promised, though they were given approval for their faith. God provided something better for us so they wouldn't be made perfect without us.

So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.

Think about the one who endured such opposition from sinners so that you won't be discouraged and you won't give up.

Prayer for Reflection

This Day, Lord

*This day, Lord,
We remember
We remember those who have come before
Those known and unknown,
Those imperfect vessels who, like us, sought to embody your grace and love,
Those who received and carried tradition,
And in turn passed it on to us.
May we live like them as faithful disciples,
Inspired by their example,
Receiving their wisdom,
Learning from their mistakes,
And seeking to work with you
To build the communion of the commonwealth of your love.
So hallowed be your name,
Just as it was at times in them,
So may it be in us.
This we pray. Amen.*

(Jon Humphries)

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]*

Jim Clardy & Becky Dean

Let us prepare to take our place at the table of grace with servants among us and saints above us, united in the joy of Christ our Hope:

Everlasting God, whose timeless grace unites us, forgive the ways we have sinned against our ancestors. We failed to follow their example and heed their wisdom. Free us from the legacy of their sins. Forgive the ways we have sinned against our descendants. Our greed has threatened their well-being, and our hatred has damaged their peace. Free us to be your worthy servants in this hour, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

Assurance of Grace

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

The saying is true for all generations: Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

This proves God's love for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

(North United Methodist Church)

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

“An Adventure in Christian Union”

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

When the Saints Go Marching In

Doreen Ketchem and NOLA Jazz Band

LIVING AS THE CHURCH, GRATITUDES, OFFERINGS

Offering Time

Offering Words

Living as the Church

Gratitude Times

CLOSING SONG

We Are the Church

UMH 558

(Refrain) *I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!*

All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

1. *The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple*

The church is not a resting place, the church is a people

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

2. We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces
All colors and all ages too, from all times and places
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

3. Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning
Sometimes it's riding sometimes hiding, always it's learning
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

4. And when the people gather there's singing and there's praying
There's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

5. At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit
And told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

CLOSING PRAYER *(responsive)*

Jim Clardy & Becky Dean

Dear Lord, thank you for drawing us into community.

Inspire us with the lives of those before us, those ancient ones who have lived here in faith and opened up and given away your love to all those who needed it.

*Teach us to discern your voice as those before us have discerned your voice,
guided by its call and feeding on its promise of life and hope and belonging.*

May we hear your word:

a comforting word in its familiar sound,

yet a disturbing word in what it speaks anew and longs for us to become.

Call us from our past, through the voices of our ancestors,
in the songs they have sung and the prayers they have spoken
that have shaped peace within the community,

*And may we join our voice with their voice, in the one great song of love
that will be lived and celebrated yet, throughout community. Amen.*

Rev. Roddy Hamilton, posted on Listening to the Stones, adapt.

BENEDICTION Sing with All the Saints in Glory, (Vs. 1) UMH 702

*1. Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking, soon the storms of time shall cease;
in God's likeness we, awaking, know the everlasting peace.*

POSTLUDE

When the Saints Go Marching In Traditional

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