

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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“THOUGH WE CANNOT
THINK ALIKE, MAY WE
NOT LOVE ALIKE?”

JOHN WESLEY

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January 16, 2022
Human Relations Sunday
Celebration of Divine Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Preacher*

INTROIT

At This Table

Idina Menzel/Jonas Myran

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acRAIkV7QDc>

OPENING PRAYER *[responsive]*

Sherri Elinson & Andrew Champion

Oh God, hear our cries and send healing, change and unity to your land.

Innocent blood cries out from the soil for lives taken because of the color of their skin, their gender, and cultural differences.

Oh God, hear our cries and send healing, change and unity to our land.

We have marched, sung, and run,
We have prayed, watched, and waited for a change to come.

We have buried loved ones, leaders slain in their prime; and our families have suffered for the hatred that has plagued our land.

We've seen our dreams delayed and fade with the passing of time, hoping, praying that a brighter future would come for our children and grandchildren.

We listened to "I have a dream" speeches; we chanted with the crowd "Yes, we can!" We believed in a new day when we too would be seen, treated as accepted, protected as American.

AND, God has heard our cries and is sending healing, change and unity to our land.

We stand together, Black, White, Jews, Gentiles, Muslims, churched and unchurched.
Together we watch the dream become a reality as we put aside our differences and hold hands.

God has heard our cries and is sending healing, change, and unity to our land.

Yes, we celebrate this day our unity in God. Our differences serve as a reminder of how precious each of us is in the human tapestry of life and that the future holds great things for the next generation.

Yes, God has heard our cries. Yes, healing, change, and unity are sweeping the land!

- Sharletta M. Green

A SONG, SCRIPTURE AND A PRAYER

Opening Song

God of Grace and God of Glory

UMH 577

*1. God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown the ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.*

*2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us, scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to love and praise.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.*

3. Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;

*shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*

*4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.*

Scripture

Romans 12:6-18 (CEB)

Andrew Champion

We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good. If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people.

Scriptural Response

Canto de Esperanza

LMUMC Handbells

("Song of Hope")

arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

*May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.*

*May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.*

*Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Pamela L. 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 *[unison]*

Sherri Elinson

Sometimes, O God, we forget people, or we toss them aside - the difficult ones, the needy ones, the ones that are hard to spend time with, the ones who confront us. And sometimes when we do things like that, it's not really about the other people, but about us. We are uncomfortable, or we feel guilty, or we follow brighter, shinier people, or we worry about what will make us look good. We are in such desperate need of your forgiveness. We need to be forgiven for our sin, for our mistakes, for mistaking what the world values with what you value. Help us to be better, and to see more clearly, and to care more thoroughly. In Christ we pray. Amen!

Beth Merrill Neal

SILENCE IS KEPT FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

Assurance of Grace

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

Hear the Good News: God sees our brokenness and hears our cries for redemption and justice. In our turning to God through Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

*As forgiven people Living in the season of miracles,
let us share peace with our siblings in the world!*

SHARING IN COMMUNION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MESSAGE

“On God’s Mountain”

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD (video)

Up to the Mountain

Patty Griffin

(you are welcome to join in singing)

LIVING AS THE CHURCH, GRATITUDES, OFFERINGS

Living as the Church

Gratitude Times

Offering Time

Offering Words

THANKSGIVING SONG

God of Many Faces w: Amy Gerniglia

from Songs for the Holy Other songbook

*God of many faces, we offer our praise,
Singing your glory through all of our days.
Hear ever growing voices, once fragile now strong,
Carrying melodies in expansive new songs.*

CLOSING SONG

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH 519

*1. Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty; let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.*

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun Let us march on till victory is won.*

*2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*

*3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand.
True to our God, true to our native land.*

CLOSING PRAYER *[unison]*

Sherri Elinson

God has created us in community as so much more than the sum of our parts. Recognizing that each one of us has gifts that are complimented by our neighbors, join together for the common good to strengthen the contributions of all God's children. Activate in us a sense of purpose to fully partner our gifts with others and share the love of Christ with all we meet.

United Methodist Church (adapt.)

POSTLUDE

Revive Us Again

by John Jay Husband; arr. Mark Hayes

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