

**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)

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## *“In God Alone”*

*from an Epiphany series: “God is Holding Your Life”*

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February 6, 2022  
Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany  
*Celebration of Divine Worship*

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WELCOME

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

INTROIT

How Can I Keep from Singing Robert Lowry; arr. Richard Walters  
Khristle Jordan, *Soprano*

OPENING PRAYER [*responsive*]

Marlene Yamashita and Juliet Hannafin

Turn now your gaze upon the earth  
Where is the One who never sleeps?  
We call the One who guards you now,  
Your spirit safe in holy keep.

*God is holding your life*

*God is holding your life, we believe*

*God of our devotion,*

*you are the one constant in life.*

Open us this day to see the things that hold us in their grip  
so that we might shed unnecessary distractions that keep us from seeing  
your reign on earth as it is in heaven

*We praise you for being our rock,*

*holding our lives together in the ways that matter most. Amen.*

## A SONG, SCRIPTURE AND A PRAYER

Opening Song

House of God

W&S 3132

1. This is the house of God. This is the gate of heaven.  
This is a holy place. You are always welcome.  
Trust and know I'm always with you through all changes and all seasons.  
When you wake and when you're sleeping. All is well.

*You are the house of God. You are the gate of heaven.*

*You are a holy place. I am always welcome. This is the house of God.*

2. Live in the house of God. Live at the gate of heaven.  
Live in a holy place. You are always welcome.  
You are always precious to me. You are always perfect to me.  
Stop your worry, your excuses. All is well.

*You are the house of God. You are the gate of heaven.*

*You are a holy place. I am always welcome. This is the house of God.*

3. You are the house of God. You are the gate of heaven.  
You are a holy place. I am always welcome.  
Through your tears and through your courage, through all trials and all stories.  
Cradled in my arms please hear me. All is well.

*You are the house of God. You are the gate of heaven.*

*You are a holy place. I am always welcome. This is the house of God.*

## Scripture

Psalm 62:5-8; Philippians 4:4-7 (NRSV)

Marlene Yamashita

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

*Selah*

### Phil. 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## Scriptural Response

**In God Alone**

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

## 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 *[responsive]*

Juliet Hannafin

*Lord, I confess my impatience and lack of self-control. I often try to run ahead of You rather than waiting. I try to solve my own problems with human thinking instead of praying for Your intervention. I know Your timing is perfect, but I'm not very good at waiting. Help me to learn to wait on You and be satisfied with Your timing, because You are the source of my hope and victory. You are my Rock, my salvation, my mighty fortress of protection. And with You on my side, I know that I am assured the victory through Jesus Christ. In Jesus' Name, I pray, Amen.*

*Heartlight.org*

### TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

## Assurance of Grace

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, *Pastor*

Hear the Good News: With God with us, we know we are assured forgiveness through Christ Jesus. In Jesus' name, we give thanks and praise. Amen.

## PASSING THE PEACE

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

### SHARING IN COMMUNION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

## MESSAGE

### “The Peace of God”

Rev. Judith Pruess-Mellow, (Ret.) *Guest Preacher*

LIVING AS THE CHURCH, GRATITUDES, OFFERINGS

Living as the Church

Gratitude Times

Offering Time

THANKSGIVING SONG

Bless Christ Through Whom All Things are Made w&s 3035

*Bless Christ through whom all things are made.*

*Join seen and unseen in their praise  
of One who both creates, sustains  
who goes before, in justice reigns.*

CLOSING SONG

Saranam, Saranam

UMH 523

*Jesus, Savior, Lord, lo, to thee I fly; Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;  
thou the Rock, my refuge that's higher than I: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.*

1) **In the midst of foes I cry to thee, from the ends of earth wherever I may be;  
my strength in helplessness, O answer me: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.**

*Jesus, Savior, Lord, lo, to thee I fly; Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;  
thou the Rock, my refuge that's higher than I: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.*

2) **In thy tent give me a dwelling place,  
and beneath thy wings may I find sheltering grace;  
O lift on me the sunshine of thy face: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.**

*Jesus, Savior, Lord, lo, to thee I fly; Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;  
thou the Rock, my refuge that's higher than I: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.*

3) **O that I my vows to thee may pay, and that by thy faithfulness to me each day  
may live, and on thy love my burdens lay: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.**

*Jesus, Savior, Lord, lo, to thee I fly; Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;  
thou the Rock, my refuge that's higher than I: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.*

4) **Yesterday, today, fore'er the same, lo, the heritage of all who bear thy name;  
to ransom them from sin the Savior came: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.**

*Jesus, Savior, Lord, lo, to thee I fly; Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;  
thou the Rock, my refuge that's higher than I: Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.*

CLOSING PRAYER

Juliet Hannafin

*Now go in the knowledge that God is holding your life even as we hold each other.  
You are not alone. You are loved. Amen.*

POSTLUDE

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

arr. Calvin Taylor

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