

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.

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“to Love Together”

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

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May 15, 2022
NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY
CELEBRATION OF DIVINE WORSHIP

WELCOME[VIDEO]

Get Together

by: The Youngbloods

INTROIT

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

Albert Piece;
arr. Mark Hayes

OPENING PRAYER (*responsive*)

Sharon Cropsey & Andrew Champion

Open us, O God, like tombs giving way to Your Light. Move us...

...toward Your possibilities

...toward Your Word

...toward Your surprises

...toward Your love

...toward Your grace

...toward Your Risen Presence.

Holy and Living God, open us this day like tombs that give way to light. Open us to your love, to your acceptance, to your forgiveness, to your peace. Open us to each other and to the possibilities you have in store for us. Give us hope for the future and a passion for life. We pray in the name of the One-Who-Destroyed-Death, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OPENING SONG

Love Astounding

by: Jeannette M. Lindholm

from "Songs for the Holy Other" songbook

- 1. Love astounding, Love confounding limits fearful minds impose.
Love renewing, Love pursuing every heart until it knows.
Love's transforming, healing goodness. Love's abiding, gentle grace,
Love's endurance, Love's assurance, Love's consoling strong embrace.*
- 2. Love receiving, Love believing, we rejoice with thanks and song,
faith regaining, hope proclaiming; Love has taught us we belong
safe within Love's tender keeping, safe from fear's persistent call,
Love defending, Love unending, Love of God enfolding all.*

SCRIPTURE

John 21:12-17

Sharon Cropsey

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples could bring themselves to ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

Simon replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." Jesus asked a second time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Simon replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep." He asked a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was sad that Jesus asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" He replied, "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE *We Are Called* TFWS 2172

**1. Come, live in the light, shine with the joy and the love of the Lord.
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of
God.**

*We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God*

**2. Come, open your heart. Show your mercy to all those in fear;
We are called to be hope for the hopeless, so all hatred and blindness will be
no more.**

*We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God*

**3. Sing, sing a new song. Sing of that great day when all will be one.
God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united
in love.**

*We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God*

SERMON "Unbounded Freedom to Love Together"

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

RESPONSE TO THE SERMON

Colors of the Wind words by: Stephen Schwartz

Amara Clark, *soprano* music by: Alak Menken

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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)*

Jesus calls us to love God with all our hearts..

All our hearts?

More than our families and friends, our homes, our jobs, our cars, our computers,?
More than all of these because when we love God with all our heart, it is that love which influences us and enables us to act lovingly towards not only family and friends-who may be easy to love-but towards others who may not be so easy to love. And we realize that people matter more than things.

Forgive us, O God when we fail to put you first in our lives.

Jesus calls us to love God with all our soul.

Our whole being?

More than anyone or anything we invest energy in?

Music, sport, art, gardening, - any of our hobbies...?

More than all of these because when we love God with all our soul, it is God's dynamic love which directs how we use our energy, our interests, our power. Who we are and what we do can then be used to benefit others as well as ourselves.

Forgive us, O God when we fail to put you first in our lives.

Jesus calls us to love God with all our mind.

Surely not all of our mind.

More than our thirst for knowledge, our learning in schools and beyond, the books we read, our advances in information technology,?

More than all these because when we love God with all our mind, it is God's creative love which then inspires our thoughts and our will so that our wisdom and knowledge are shaped by God's kingdom values of justice and mercy, love and peace.

All: Forgive us, O God when we fail to put you first in our lives.

Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Forgive us, O God, when we go along with society's concentration on selfish needs over against selfless deeds.

Forgive our self-centeredness and enlarge our vision to see all people as neighbors. All of us loved equally by you.

Merciful God, forgive our weaknesses and strengthen us with your Spirit to love you with all our heart, soul and mind and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Help us to know the peace of your forgiving love.

Forgive us, O God when we fail to put you first in our lives. Amen.

(adapt.) Copyright © Moira Laidlaw, posted on her Liturgies Online website.

TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news:

God loves everyone for who they are, not what they do;

God forgives everyone for what they do, and don't do;

In God's Kingdom, here on Earth as in Heaven,

Everyone is welcomed and fed by God's grace and hope.

Forgiven, loved, sent forth - we are not far from God's Kingdom!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

~ (adapt) written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

As forgiven people living in the season of resurrection,

let us share peace with our siblings in the world!

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP OF CHRIST

GRATITUDE TIMES

LIVING AS THE CHURCH

OFFERING

THANKSGIVING SONG

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High TFWS 2088

Lord, I lift Your name on high. Lord, I love to sing Your praises.

I'm so glad You're in my life. I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way;

From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;

Lord, I lift Your name on high

CLOSING SONG

Heleluyan

UMH 78; Tradt'l Muscoee (Creek)

Heleluyan, Heleluyan; Hele, Heleluyan

Heleluyan, Heleluyan; Hele, Heleluyan

(repeat 3x)

CLOSING PRAYER (responsive)

Sharon Cropsey & Andrew Champion

We have seen the Lord this day!

Now go into the world to spread this Good News.

God is good!

All the time!

And all the time...

God is good!

May you be blessed and may you be a blessing,

in the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

(Worship Design Studio)

POSTLUDE

Since Jesus Came into My Heart

Charles Gabriel;

arr. Mark Hayes