

**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



*“to Open”*

**Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor**  
*[pastor@lakemerrittumc.org](mailto:pastor@lakemerrittumc.org)*

**Jim Meredith, Music Director**  
*[jimmeredith@mac.com](mailto:jimmeredith@mac.com)*

**Neil Wade, Office Administrator**  
*[office@lakemerrittumc.org](mailto:office@lakemerrittumc.org)*

May 29, 2022  
Ascension Sunday  
CELEBRATION OF DIVINE WORSHIP

---

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

INTROIT [video]

“How Long”

by: Mark Miller

LITANY IN THE WAKE OF A MASS SHOOTING (*responsive*)

God of peace, we remember all those who have died in incidents of mass gun violence in this nation’s public and private spaces.

Six dead at the Wisconsin Sikh Temple.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Twelve dead at an Aurora, Colorado movie theater.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Twenty-eight dead at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Six dead at Santa Monica College, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Seven dead at a Hialeah, Florida apartment complex.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Thirteen dead at the Washington Navy Yard.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Four dead at Fort Hood, Texas.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Seven dead in Isla Vista, near UC Santa Barbara.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Five dead at Marysville Pilchuck High School in Washington.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Six dead in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Nine dead at Emanuel AME in Charleston, South Carolina.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Sixteen dead at a San Bernardino, California office.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Ten dead at Umpqua Community College, Oregon.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Six dead in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Four dead at a Hesston, Kansas office.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Five dead at a Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania backyard party.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Fifty dead at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Five dead at Cascade Mall in Burlington, Washington.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Five dead at Fort Lauderdale Airport.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Four dead in Fresno, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Eight dead in Lincoln County, Mississippi.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Four dead at an Eaton Township, Pennsylvania supermarket.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Nine dead at a Plano, Texas football-watching party.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Fifty-nine dead at a Las Vegas, Nevada concert.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Twenty-seven dead at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Seventeen dead at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Five dead at the Veterans Home in Yountville, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Four dead at a Nashville, Tennessee Waffle House.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Ten dead at Santa Fe High School, Texas.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Five dead at the Capital Gazette Newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Four dead at the Fifth Third Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Four dead at a Rite Aid distribution center in Aberdeen, Maryland.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Eleven dead at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Thirteen dead at a bar in Thousand Oaks, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Five dead at a bank in Sebring, Florida.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Five dead at their homes in Ascension and Livingston parishes, Louisiana.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Six dead at an industrial park in Aurora, Illinois.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Four dead at a home in Clinton, Mississippi.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Four dead in Solon Township, Michigan.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Thirteen dead at a municipal building in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Four dead at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in Gilroy, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Twenty-two dead at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Ten dead at the Oregon District of downtown Dayton, Ohio.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Eight dead on the road between the cities of Odessa and Midland, Texas.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Five dead in their home in Elkmont, Alabama.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Four dead at a bar in Kansas City, Kansas.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Four dead at a backyard football watch party in Fresno, California

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Six dead at a cemetery and kosher market in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Six dead at the Molson Coors complex in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Five dead at a convenience store in Springfield, Missouri.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Five dead in the northeast side of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Eight dead at three spas in Atlanta, Georgia.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Ten dead at a grocery store in Boulder, Colorado.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Four dead at an office complex in Orange, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Six dead at a home in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Nine dead at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Seven dead at a birthday party in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Ten dead at a rail yard in San Jose, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Four dead at Oxford High School in Oxford Township, Michigan.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Five dead in Lakewood and Denver, Colorado.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Five dead at The Church in Sacramento, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Six dead in downtown Sacramento, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Ten dead at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Twenty-one dead at Robb Elementary School and one dead at a home in Uvalde, Texas.

Give to the departed eternal rest

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

All those who have died in any incident of gun violence.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

For survivors of gun violence.

Grant them comfort and healing.

*Hear us, Lord.*

For those who have lost loved ones to gun violence.

Grant them peace.

*Hear us, Lord.*

For those first responders who care for victims of gun violence.  
Protect and strengthen them.

*Hear us, Lord.*

Lord, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy.

*Bishops of the Episcopal Church United Against Gun Violence*

## RESPONSE

Maybe the most beautiful act in all the world...  
is to open our hearts,  
even as they are broken.  
To nurture our tenderness,  
even though it is easy to turn bitter.  
To remain gentle and supple,  
even though everything in you says go hard.  
To keep your soul open and facing the sky,  
even though you cannot yet see the light of the sun.  
They are of the truly remarkable.

*by: S.C. Lourie*

## SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:17-18 (Msg)

Laurel Williams

I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!

## SERMON

*“Unbounded Freedom to Open”*

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

## RESPONSE TO THE SERMON [VIDEO]

*Open the Eyes of My Heart* *Sung by: Christopher Duffley*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & GRATITUDE TIMES

### 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 & RESOLVE *(responsive)*

You asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose.

*I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.*

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.

*I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.*

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.

*I closed them, for I did not want to see.*

You asked for my life, that you might work through me.

*I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved.*

*Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you-  
only when it is convenient for me to do so,  
only in those places where it is safe to do so,  
and only with those who make it easy to do so.*

*Father, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument,  
that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross. Amen.*

*(adapt.) The Worship Sourcebook, ©2004, Faith Alive Christian Resources*

## TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Hear the Good News:

Friends, our God has poured out grace upon grace,  
freely, in great abundance,  
even on you, even on me.

though we never earned it and don't deserve it.

In Christ we are made new through his sacrifice;  
all your sins and mine crumble away.

In Christ we are forgiven, signed with the Spirit,  
lavished with gift upon gift,

released into hope to live for praise and for glory. Amen.

*(adapt.) conversations.net*

### 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

### LIVING AS THE CHURCH

**Fran Cooper** transferring from Harvard Epworth UMC, Cambridge MA

**Galia Fragoso** transferring from Iglesia Bautista el Buen Pastor, Mexico City, Mexico

**Brent Kenny** transferring from Spanish Fort UMC, Spanish Fort, AL

**Sia-Linda Lebbie** transferring from Wesley UMC, Salem, MA

*The pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds:*

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church,  
reaffirm both your rejection of sin  
and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life  
and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news  
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround these persons  
with a community of love and forgiveness,  
that they may grow in their trust of God,  
and be found faithful in their service to others.**



We will pray for them,  
that they may be true disciples  
who walk in the way that leads to life.

*[pause]*

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith  
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?  
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

*[pause]*

Members of the household of God,  
I commend these persons to your love and care.  
Do all in your power to increase their faith,  
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you  
and we welcome you in Christian love.

As members together with you  
in the body of Christ  
and in this congregation  
of The United Methodist Church,  
we renew our covenant  
faithfully to participate  
in the ministries of the Church  
by our prayers, our presence,  
our gifts, our service, and our witness,  
that in everything God may be glorified  
through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace,  
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,  
establish you and strengthen you  
that you may live in grace and peace.

## 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

Alleluia

*Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
Now the Lord is ris'n Indeed.  
[3x]*

### CLOSING PRAYER *(responsive)*

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.

### POSTLUDE

The Lord's Prayer comp. Albert Hay Malotte  
Noah Montevirgen, *baritone*