

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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Where the
Spirit
of the Lord is
There is
Freedom

“Unbounded Freedom to Be Filled”

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June 5, 2022
Pentecost Sunday
CELEBRATION OF DIVINE WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

INTROIT

“Breathe on Me Breath of God”

LMUMC Handbell Choir

By: Robert Jackson; arr. Jason W. Krug

OPENING PRAYER *(responsive)*

Marlene Yamashita & Juliet Hannafin

In those days, says the Lord -

In those days after Jesus rose from the dead, in those days when no one really knew what was going on or what was going to happen -

In those days God exhaled the Holy Spirit.

And when the disciples pushed out their fear

And as dancing flames heralded the arrival of something new

And as the birth cry was the cries of many languages, all understood -

In those days, the church was born, out of fear and fire,

With joy and awe.

The church was born;

Our church;

God's church!

Let us worship God! Amen.

Beth Merrill Neel

OPENING SONG

Spirit of God

TFWS 2117

1. *Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,
glow as you always do; create us anew.
Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing,
held in your hands, born on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come! (2 times)*
2. *Spirit of God, bright Dove, grant us your peace and love,
healing upon your wings for all living things.
For when we live your peace, captives will find release,
held in your hands, born on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come! (2 times)*
3. *Spirit of God, bright Hands, even in far off lands
you hold all the human race in one warm embrace.
No matter where we go, you hold us together so,
held in your hands, born on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come! (2 times)*
4. *Spirit of God, bright Flame, send us in your holy name,
the power to heal, to share your love everywhere.
We cannot fail or fall, or know defeat at all,
held in your hands, born on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come! (2 times)*

5. *Spirit of God, in all, we gladly hear your call,
the life in our hands that sings, the power of your wings.
Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,
held in your hands, born on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come! (2 times)*

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1-21 (MSG)

Marlene Yamashita

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were blown away. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?"

Parthians, Medes, and Elamites;

Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia,

Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,

Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene;

Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes;

Even Cretans and Arabs!

"They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?"

Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."

That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

"In the Last Days," God says,

"I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people:

Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters;

Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams.

When the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit

On those who serve me, men and women both, and they'll prophesy.

I'll set wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below,

Blood and fire and billowing smoke,

the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,

Before the Day of the Lord arrives, the Day tremendous and marvelous;

And whoever calls out for help to me, God, will be saved."

RESPONSE TO THE SCRIPTURE *(responsive)*

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit

Fill us, Holy Spirit

When the doors are closed and we are afraid to move,

Fill us, Holy Spirit.

When we are weak and unable to act,

Fill us, Holy Spirit.

When we are hesitant and unable to speak,

Fill us, Holy Spirit.

When we lack energy and are unable to cope,

Fill us, Holy Spirit.

That we may go out in your power,

Fill us, Holy Spirit.

That we may live and work for you,

Fill us, Holy Spirit.

That we may be part of your mission,

Fill us, Holy Spirit.

David Adams(adapt.)

Wa Wa Wa Emimimo TFWS 2124

[Yoruban, English, Yoruban] [sung 3x]

Wa Wa Wa Emimimo

Wa Wa Wa Alagbara

Wao, Wao, Wao

Come, O Holy Spirit, Come

Come, Almighty Spirit, Come

Come, Come, Come

Wa Wa Wa Emimimo

Wa Wa Wa Alagbara

Wao Wao Wao

SERMON

“Unbounded Freedom to Be Filled”

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

RESPONSE TO THE SERMON

Many Gifts One Spirit

LMUMC Choir

Alan Pote

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 & RESOLVE *(responsive)*

Can you help but breathe?

For those times we stifle your Spirit, O God;

For those times we ignore your whispers and shouts;

For those times when we turn away from your wonders and miracles:

Forgive us.

Beth Merrill Neel

TIME OF SILENCE FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Hear the Good News:

The breeze is loosed on the world. The fire is consumed. We breathe deeply, for indeed, we are forgiven.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

Beth Merrill Neel

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP OF CHRIST

LIVING AS THE CHURCH

BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP OF JUDY TRAN

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.

GRATITUDE TIMES

OFFERING

THANKSGIVING SONG

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise TFWS 2031

We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.

We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.

We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.

We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.

And we offer up to you the sacrifices of thanksgiving.

And we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy.

CLOSING PRAYER *(unison)*

*Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.*

*This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.*

*The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.*

*The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace*

*Today the lost are found in his translation.
Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.*

Malcolm Guite

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus

from Handel's "Messiah"

Led by: LMUMC Choir

*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world

Is become the kingdom of our Lord

And of His Christ, and of His Christ

And He shall reign for ever and ever

And He shall reign for ever and ever

And He shall reign for ever and ever

For ever and ever, forever and ever

King of kings (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)

And Lord of lords (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)

King of kings (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)

And Lord of lords (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)

King of kings (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)

And Lord of lords (King of kings and Lord of lords)

And He shall reign, And He shall reign

And He shall reign forever and ever

King of kings (Forever and ever)

And He shall reign (Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)

And He shall reign forever and ever

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

And He shall reign forever and ever

Forever and ever, Forever and ever

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Readers: Marlene Yamashita & Juliet Hannafin