

**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

*Bread, Bath and Beyond*  
*Pentecost Series*



*"Beyond Belief"*

**Rev. Pamela Kurtz, Pastor**  
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June 26, 2022  
Third Sunday after Pentecost  
CELEBRATION OF DIVINE WORSHIP

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WELCOME

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

INTROIT

“How Great Thou Art”

arr. Mark Hayes

A QUEER CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Strange One. Fabulous One. Fluid and ever becoming One.

*Do not allow us to make our ideas of you into an idol.*

You are as close to us as our own breath and yet, your essence transcends all that we can imagine.

*You are mother, father, and parent. You are sister, brother, and sibling. You are drag queen, and trans man, and gender-fluid - incapable of limiting your vast expressions of beauty.*

Embodied in us, your creation, we recognize our flesh in all its forms is made holy in You. With thanksgiving, we celebrate your manifestation in all its glorious forms.

*Blessed are our bodies. Blessed is our love. Blessed are we when we celebrate that which the world turns away. Fill our hearts with a pride rooted in resistance to all that seeks to destroy.*

May we delight in the ways you have created us: diverse, unique, surprising, and beautiful.

*Thanks be to God! Amen!*

*Enfleshed.com*

OPENING SONG

He Touched Me UMH 367

1. Shackled by a heavy burden,  
Neath a load of guilt and shame,  
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,  
And now I am no longer the same.  
*He touched me, O He touched me,  
And O the joy that floods my soul!  
Something happened, and now I know,  
He touched me and made me whole.*

2. Since I met this blessed Savior,  
Since He cleansed and made me whole,  
I will never cease to praise Him;  
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.  
*He touched me, O He touched me,  
And O the joy that floods my soul!  
Something happened, and now I know,  
He touched me and made me whole*

SCRIPTURE

John 1:43-49 (MSG)

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. When he got there, he ran across Philip and said, “Come, follow me.” (Philip’s hometown was Bethsaida, the same as Andrew and Peter.)

Philip went and found Nathanael and told him, “We’ve found the One Moses wrote of in the Law, the One preached by the prophets. It’s Jesus, Joseph’s son, the one from Nazareth!” Nathanael said, “Nazareth? You’ve got to be kidding.”

But Philip said, “Come, see for yourself.”

When Jesus saw him coming he said, “There’s a real Israelite, not a false bone in his body.”

Nathanael said, “Where did you get that idea? You don’t know me.”

Jesus answered, “One day, long before Philip called you here, I saw you under the fig tree.”

Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi! You are the Son of God, the King of Israel!”

## RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE

Go Ye Go Ye Into All the World

by Eugene Butler

LMUMC Choir

SERMON

“Living – Beyond Belief”

Rev. Pamela Kurtz, *Pastor*

RESPONSE [VIDEO]

Dear God

Nimo Patel feat. Nicco;

*Empty Hands Music*

## PRAYERS & GRATITUDES

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*)

Lord Jesus forgive me,

*For not answering when you call,  
For complaining when you do call me  
In a direction I do not want to go,  
For feeling weary when you pull me  
From my comfort zone to unfamiliar places.*

Help me to

*Lower my nets of resistance,  
To find a quiet, calm in the waters of the sea  
And hear you above the roar of the  
Waves when you call me by name.*

For from the chaos of your death and resurrection, came a new direction.

You call us in that new direction

*To continue your work on Earth  
Until you call us to eternal life.*

*Margaret LeWright*

## SILENCE IS KEPT FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Know that God loves and forgives us in spite of our resistance to hear the call. God doesn't give up on us and will continue to call us. Listen. God's love for us is beyond belief.

*Amen!*

*Margaret LeWright*

### PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

### SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP OF CHRIST

### 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.*

*And we offer up to you the sacrifices of thanksgiving.*

*And we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy.*

### LIVING AS THE CHURCH

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

### ORDER OF FAREWELL TO PASTOR

Leader:

Our church family is ever changing. Loved ones are born into the family and loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals come and go in our church life. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with Pastor Pam, whose time as our pastor ends.

Pastor:

I thank you, my siblings, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these past seven years. I am grateful for the ministry we have shared together. With joy I recall what we have accomplished with God's help, and with sadness those dreams not fulfilled. I release you from turning to me and depending on me. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and your new pastor, the Rev. Sunae Cho.

People:

*We celebrate all that God has accomplished among us.*

*We are grateful for your ministry and for your influence on our lives.*

Leader:

O God, you have bound us together for a time as pastor and people to work for your church in this place. We thank you, God, for the ministry we have shared.

We thank you for your never-failing presence with us through these years, and for the deepened knowledge of you and of each other. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds again and again to your Word, and for feeding us abundantly at your table.

People:

*Now, we pray, be with Pastor Pam and her family, and with this congregation. Grant that all of us, by drawing closer to you, O God, may always be close to each other in the communion of saints. All this we ask in the name of Jesus the Christ, your Holy Child, our Lord. Amen.*

CLOSING SONG *God Be with You till We Meet Again* UMH 672

1. God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you,  
with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

2. God be with you till we meet again; 'neath his wings securely hide you,  
daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

3. God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,  
put his arms unfailing round you; God be with you till we meet again.

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

4. God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you,  
smite death's threatening wave before you; God be with you till we meet  
again.

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING *(responsive)*

Timeless God -

As we say farewell to Pastor Pam, we entrust her into your care.

We pray for happiness and joy to be ahead of her,  
for wisdom and guidance to be beside her,  
and for grace and truth to be behind her,  
pushing her onwards into your goodness.

We know that you will always love and protect her, wherever she goes.

Amen.

*Pastor Pam -*

*May the road rise up to meet you.*

*May the wind be always at your back.*

*May the sun shine warm upon your face;*

*the rains fall soft upon your fields*

*and until we meet again,*

*may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

POSTLUDE

*I'll Fly Away*

Tune: Albert Brumley; arr. Mark Hayes

Readers: Bob Cox & Alex Banash