

**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



***PRIDE** Sunday*  
*"Do No Harm"*

**Rev. Sunae Frances Cho, *Pastor***  
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September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
PRIDE SUNDAY

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WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

INTROIT

*Singing For Our Lives*

Holly Near

*We are a gentle, angry people  
And we are singing, singing for our lives (2x)*

*We are a land of many colors  
And we are singing, singing for our lives (2x)*

*We are gay and straight together  
And we are singing, singing for our lives (2x)*

*We are a peaceful, loving people  
And we are singing, singing for our lives (2x)*

*We are a justice-seeking people  
And we are singing, singing for our lives (2x)*

*We are young and old together  
And we are singing, singing for our lives (2x)*

*We are a gentle, loving people  
And we are singing, singing for our lives (2x)*

OPENING PRAYER [RESPONSIVE]

Sharon Cropsey

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ,  
calls us by grace

**to be renewed in the image of our Creator,  
that we may be one  
in divine love for the world.**

Today is the day  
God cares for the integrity of creation,  
wills the healing and wholeness of all life,  
weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.

**And so shall we.**

Today is the day  
God embraces all hues of humanity,  
delights in diversity and difference,  
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.

**And so shall we.**

Today is the day  
God cries with the masses of starving people,  
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,  
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.

**And so shall we.**

Today is the day

God deplores violence in our homes and streets,  
rebukes the world's warring madness,  
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.

**And so shall we.**

Today is the day  
God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,  
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,  
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

**And so shall we.**

*Today is the day  
God brings good news to the poor,  
proclaims release to the captives,  
gives sight to the blind, and  
sets the oppressed free.*

**And so shall we. AMEN.**

*Methodist Church*

*From The Book of Discipline of The United*

## OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

### Help Us Accept Each Other UMH 560 *Organ*

- 1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe:  
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.*
- 2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some,  
to love them as we find them or as they may become.*
- 3. Let your acceptance change us so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.*
- 4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit;  
Lord, free us, make us one!*

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

### SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-34 (NIV)

Sue Dickey

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and

with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Romans 13:10 (NIV)

Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

RESPONSE

**A Place at the Table** w&s 3149

(Please stand if able)

*1. For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead,  
and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!*

*4. For just and unjust, a place at the table,  
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,  
for just and unjust, a new way to live,  
and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!*

*5. For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free,  
and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!*

*For gay and for straight, a place at the table,  
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,  
a rainbow of race and gender and color,  
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace,  
and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators*

*of justice, justice and joy!*

SERMON

**"Do No Harm"**

Rev. Israel "Izzy" Alvaran, *UMC RMN*

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.*

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Let us offer one another signs of peace and love.*

LIVING AS THE CHURCH

**OFFERING**

THANKSGIVING SONG      Give Thanks    TFWS 2036 (sing 2x)

*Give thanks with a grateful heart*

*Give thanks to the Holy One*

*Give thanks because He's given*

*Jesus Christ, His Son*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart*

*Give thanks to the Holy One*

*Give thanks because He's given*

*Jesus Christ, His Son*

*And now let the weak say, "I am strong"*

*Let the poor say, "I am rich"*

*Because of what the Lord has done for us.*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart*

*Give thanks to the Holy One*

*Give thanks because He's given*

*Jesus Christ, His Son*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart*

*Give thanks to the Holy One*

*Give thanks because He's given*

*Jesus Christ, His Son*

*And now let the weak say, "I am strong"*

*Let the poor say, "I am rich"*

*Because of what the Lord has done for us.*

*Give thanks*

*Give thanks*

CLOSING SONG In the Midst of New Dimensions TFWS 2238

*Organ*

(Please stand if able)

*In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways.  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?*

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,  
now and ever, now and ever more.*

*As we stand a world divided by our own self seeking schemes,  
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams*

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,  
now and ever, now and ever more.*

*We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,*

*Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.*

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,  
now and ever, now and ever more.*

CLOSING PRAYER [UNISON]

Sharon Cropsey

*We, of many backgrounds and identities, personalities, and ideas,  
gather collectively in shared pursuit of the Sacred.*

*Together, we make up the body of Christ.*

*Wherever one of us is in pain,  
our whole body aches.*

*Whenever one of us is cut off,*

*The whole body is wounded.*

*Whoever is kept away*

*by discriminatory policies or practices or prejudices,*

*Our collective soul suffers the loss of their presence.*

*We need one another in order to be whole,*

*God, make us the body of Christ as you envisioned.*

*May we become your presence enfleshed,  
in service to the world and one another.*

*Enfleshed.com*

POSTLUDE

Higher Ground

Charles H. Gabriel

arr. Mark Hayes