

**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

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1255 First Avenue

Oakland, CA 94606

*reflecting the sacred*

Advent/Christmas 2022

*Sacred Time*

*Hope*

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November 27, 2022  
The First Sunday of Advent (Hope)  
SACRED TIME

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WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Sia-Linda Lebbie

Leader: We pray for Hope this day.

**People: We pray for Hope this day.**

Leader: We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

**People: We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.**

Leader: We open to see each moment

**People: We open to see each moment**

Leader: as a gift of holy presence.

**People: as a gift of holy presence.**

Leader: This is the gift of the Christ Mystery

**People: This is the gift of the Christ Mystery**

Leader: lighting the way to hope

**People: lighting the way to hope.**

**All: Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Hope,**

**We give you thanks for this holy moment together.**

**As we take in the hope you offer,**

**May we be a reflection of your light,**

**Expanding the sacred time of "right now"**

**Into the sacred time of "always and for all time."**

**Amen**

Worship Design Studio

## OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus UMH 196 (ORGAN)

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

## CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

JOSEFINA KUMBA TATOR KOROMA & JOSEFINE FINDA NEMAH KOROMA

### Renunciation of sin and Profession of faith

*To the parents or sponsors:*

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

**I Do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

**I Do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**I Do.**

Will you nurture **Josefina and Josefine** in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example, they may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly and to lead a Christian life?

**I Will.**

*To the congregation:*

Do you, as Christ's body, 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 **Josefina and Josefine** 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 them 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 a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

*To ALL:*

**Profession of Faith**

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.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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

**THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER**

*Pastor:* The Lord be with you.

**All respond: And also with you.**

*Pastor:*

Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos,  
you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan... to the land which you promised.

**All respond: Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

*Pastor:* In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

**All respond: Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.**

*Pastor:*

Pour out your Holy Spirit, <sup>[SEP]</sup>to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, <sup>[SEP]</sup>that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

**All respond: All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

## **BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS**

### **Presentation of Certificates & Candles**

**Hymn: Jesus Loves Me, Hymn # 191, verse 1 (2x)**

**Jesus loves me!  
This I know,  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong;  
they are weak, but he is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The bible tells me so.**

**Welcome Josefina and Josefine Koroma to our congregation.**

*Congregation:*

**Through baptism  
you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit  
into God's new creation  
and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.  
We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you  
as members of the family of Christ.**

## SCRIPTURE

Sia-Linda Lebbie

### Romans 13:11-14 (MSG)

But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!

### Matthew 24:36-44 (MSG)

But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven's angels, not even the Son. Only the Father knows.

The Arrival of the Son of Man will take place in times like Noah's. Before the great flood everyone was carrying on as usual, having a good time right up to the day Noah boarded the ark. They knew nothing – until the flood hit and swept everything away.

The Son of Man's Arrival will be like that: Two men will be working in the field – one will be taken, one left behind; two women will be grinding at the mill – one will be taken, one left behind. So stay awake, alert. You have no idea what day your Master will show up. But you do know this: You know that if the homeowner had known what time of night the burglar would arrive, he would have been there with his dogs to prevent the break-in. Be vigilant just like that. You have no idea when the Son of Man is going to show up.

## RESPONSE

(Please stand if able)

### THE FIRST NOEL UMH 245 VERSES 1, 2, 4 (ORGAN)

**1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.**

**2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.**

**4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.**

## SERMON

*"Sacred Time, Hope"*

Rev. Sunae Cho, Pastor

## 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 OF THE PEACE

## LIVING AS THE CHURCH

# OFFERING & THANKSGIVING SONG

Sing to UMH 150 (Sing 2x) (ORGAN)

Upon this moment  
Upon this people,  
Upon this place,  
The holy comes.  
And sacred knowing  
Brings sacred being  
For sacred doing of God's plan.

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# CLOSING SONG

(Please stand if able)

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful UMH 234, verses 1, 3, 6 (ORGAN)

1. O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
  
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
  
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**CLOSING PRAYER** (*UNISON*)

Sia-Linda Lebbie

**All: When we see lights twinkle,  
When we catch a reflection in a mirror,  
When we notice the sunlight dancing on a surface  
Or a night light glowing in the darkness,  
Let these be signs that the Christ Light is revealed  
Again and again in and through this world.**

**Know that our brilliant presence  
Is pouring more hope into a weary world.  
God loved us by becoming us.  
This means we are already  
Reflecting the sacred.**

**In the name of the Creator, Christ, and Spirit of Hope.**

**Amen.**

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**POSTLUDE**

**In Dulci Jubilo (BWV 729) (ORGAN)**

J.S. Bach