

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

1255 First Avenue

Oakland, CA 94606

reflecting the sacred

Advent/Christmas 2022

Sacred People

Love

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

[*pastor@lakemerrittumc.org*](mailto:pastor@lakemerrittumc.org)

Jim Meredith, *Music Director*

[*jimmeredith@mac.com*](mailto:jimmeredith@mac.com)

Randi Hoy

[*office@lakemerrittumc.org*](mailto:office@lakemerrittumc.org)

December 4, 2022
The Second Sunday of Advent (Love)
SACRED PEOPLE

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Jane Sliheet

Leader: We pray for Love this day.

People: We pray for Love 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 person,

People: We open to see each person,

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 Love,
We give you thanks for this holy gathering of Beloveds.
As we take in the love you offer,
May we be a reflection of your light,
Expanding the sacred presence you have promised
Into the sacred presence we can offer.
Amen**

Worship Design Studio

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear UMH 218 (ORGAN)

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

**2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

**3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!**

**4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Jane Sliheet

Matthew 3:1-12 (NIV)

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him."

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Romans 15:4-13 (NIV)

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing the praises of your name.”

Again, it says,

“Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
let all the peoples extol him.”

And again, Isaiah says,

“The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSE

(Please stand if able)

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS UMH 242 (ORGAN)

- 1. Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.**
- 2. Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?**
- 3. Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.**

SERMON “Radical Acceptance: Transformation Now”

Rev. Dr. Dale Tremper

A CELEBRATION OF WORD AND TABLE

INVITATION

Christ invites all to his table,
for he is the One who is reflected in all things and unites all things.
There is a place for you.
Let us open ourselves so that our hearts might be filled completely.

CONFESSION AND PARDON (Unison Prayer)

People: Maker of all,
forgive us when we are too preoccupied, self-involved,
or worried to notice your presence in our lives,
when we are too rushed to allow moments of wonder and awe that lead to hope,
when we are too frightened to imagine those not like us loved equally by you,
when we gloss over the most ordinary details as a revelation of your joy,
when we fail to stop and reside in peace with you in our depths.
Open us, O God,
free us to reflect the sacred.
Touch us with your presence,
we pray in your **Holy Name:**
Christ, Anointed One. Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAY IN SILENCE

Pastor: Here the good news:
God is with us in our distress and in our faltering.
God is always and already closing the gaps we create.
Jesus calls us to this table with unfailing and gracious hospitality.
You are forgiven and freed. You are not alone.
People: You are forgiven and freed. You are not alone.
All: Glory to God! Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you.
Word of God, Logos from the beginning.
You made us reflective of your image

and set us ablaze with the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love dulled,
your love remained as light for our lives.
You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.
And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him

to preach good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

and to announce that the time had come

when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

A reflection of this purpose,

and anointed as his disciples,

Christ's birth is our awakening.

Christ's suffering is all suffering.

Christ's death and resurrection is the pattern of all things.

We are his Body in the world -

the Body of Christ -

renewed by water and the spirit.

He has been, is, and always will be with us,

One in Three, Three in One,

In the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many

for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

And so,
in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Anoint this community with your Holy Spirit,
and pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them a reflection of your life and love for the world,
so that we may be for the world a Christ Mirror,
radiating and multiplying this love in the world.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,

and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

All: Amen. Amen. Amen

SHARING IN THE BREAD AND CUP

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.*

LIVING AS THE CHURCH

OFFERING & THANKSGIVING SONG

Sing to UMH 150

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

Take these gifts we humbly give thee
Help us use them for your will
To feed your people bread for the body
And mind and spirit, fill the soul.

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

Worship Design Studio
Margaret LeWright

CLOSING SONG

(Please stand if able)

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing UMH 240 (ORGAN)

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

**Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"**

CLOSING PRAYER (*UNISON*)

Jane Sliheet

**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.**

Worship Design Studio (adapt)

POSTLUDE *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* (*ORGAN*) David Cherwien