

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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January 1, 2023
Epiphany Sunday
Covenant Renewal

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dale Tremper

INTROIT

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

William B Bradbury, arr. Mark Hayes

OPENING PRAYER (*UNISON*)

Lisa Radspinner

All: O God, Searcher of all our hearts,
you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own.
As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace,
and to enter anew into covenant with you,
reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us.
Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being,
and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

David Tripp, England, 20th Century

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore UMH 344

1. Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

2. You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labor.

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

3. You need my hands, full of caring
through my labors to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

**4. You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.**

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Lisa Radspinner

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NIV)

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord.

"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord.

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

RESPONSE COME, LET US USE THE GRACE DIVINE UMH 606 (ORGAN)

- 1. Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord,
in a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord;
Give up ourselves, thru Jesus' power, his name to glorify;
and promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.**
- 2. The covenant we this moment make be ever kept in mind;
we will no more our God forsake, or cast these words behind.
We never will throw off the fear of God who hears our vow;
and if thou art well pleased to hear, come down and meet us now.**
- 3. Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, let all our hearts receive,
present with thy celestial host the peaceful answer give;
to each covenant the blood apply which takes our sins away,
and register our names on high and keep us to that day!**

SERMON

"A New Deal"

Rev. Dr. Dale Tremper

A CELEBRATION OF WORD AND TABLE

INVITATION

Pastor: Dearly beloved, the Christian life, to which we are called, is a life in Christ, redeemed from sin, and through Him consecrated to God. Upon this life we have entered, having been admitted into that new covenant of which our Lord Jesus Christ is mediator, and which he sealed with His own blood, that it might stand for ever.

On one side the Covenant is God's promise that He will fulfill in and through us all that He declared in Christ Jesus, who is the author and Perfecter of our faith. That His promise still stands we are sure, for we have known His goodness, and proved His grace in our lives day by day. On the other side we stand pledged to live no more unto ourselves, but to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, and has called us to serve Him that the purpose of His coming might be fulfilled.

From time to time, we renew our vows of consecration, especially when we gather at the Lord's Table: but on this day we meet expressly, as generations of our fathers have met, that we may joyfully and solemnly renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

Let us then, remembering the mercies of God, and the hope of His calling, examine ourselves by the light of His Spirit, that we may see wherein we have failed or fallen short in faith and practice, and, considering all that this Covenant means, may give ourselves anew to God.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Pastor: Let us humbly confess our sins to God.

O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ.

We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

People: Lord, forgive us.

Pastor: We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibilities in our service, and our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

People: Lord, forgive us.

Pastor: Let each of us in silence make our confession to God.

INVITATION TO PRAY IN SILENCE

Pastor: Hear the good news: the message that we have heard from God's Son and now announce is this: God is light, and there is no darkness at all in him.

If we live in the light—just as he is in the light—then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us.

But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right; he will forgive us all our wrongdoing.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

COVENANT RENEWAL

Pastor: In the old covenant, God chose Israel to be a special people and to obey the law. Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection, has made a new covenant with all who trust in him.

We stand within this covenant and we bear his name. On the one side, God promises in this covenant to give us new life in Christ.

On the other side, we are pledged to live not for ourselves but for God.

Today, therefore, we meet to renew the covenant which binds us to God.

Friends, let us claim the covenant God has made with his people, and accept the yoke of Christ.

To accept the yoke of Christ means that we allow Christ to guide all that we do and are, and that Christ himself is our only reward.

Christ has many services to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some make others applaud us, others bring only reproach; some we desire to do because of our own interests; others seem unnatural.

Sometimes we please Christ and meet our own needs, at other times we cannot please Christ unless we deny ourselves.

Yet Christ strengthens us and gives us the power to do all these things. Therefore let us make this covenant of God our own.

Let us give ourselves completely to God, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.

People: I give myself completely to you, God. Assign me to my place in your creation.

Give me the work you would have me do. Give me many tasks or have me step aside while you call others.

Put me forward or humble me. Give me riches or let me live in poverty. I freely give all that I am and all that I have to you.

And now, holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

May this covenant made on earth continue for all eternity.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: On the night Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciple, 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 the 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."

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.
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 this heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in you holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, mighty God,
now and forever.

People: Amen, Amen, Amen.

SHARING IN THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYERS & GRATITUDES

Sue Dickey

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

O God, Our Help in Ages Past UMH 117, verses, 1, 6 (ORGAN)

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

CLOSING SONG

(Please stand if able)

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing UMH 57, verses, 1, 2, 5 (ORGAN)

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.
5. He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

CLOSING PRAYER (*UNISON*)

Lisa Radspinner

All: I am no longer my own, but yours.

**Put me to what you will, align me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;**

let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,

let me be full, let me be empty,

let me have all things, let me have nothing:

**I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and
disposal.**

**And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.**

So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

John Wesley

POSTLUDE

Recessional in G Major (ORGAN)

John Stanley