

**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

*reflecting the sacred*

Advent/Christmas 2022

*Sacred Space, Joy*

**Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor***

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December 11, 2022  
The Third Sunday of Advent (Joy)  
SACRED SPACE

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WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Phyllis Elving

Leader: We pray for Joy this day.

**People: We pray for Joy 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 place,

**People: We open to see each place,**

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 joy.

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

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

**We give you thanks for this physical and online space for gathering.**

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

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

**Expanding the sacred space of "right here"**

**Into the sacred space of "everywhere."**

**Amen**

Worship Design Studio

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

*Sing We Now of Christmas* UMH 237 (ORGAN)

**1. Sing we now of Christmas,  
Noel, sing we here!**

**Hear our grateful praises  
to the babe so dear.**

**Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!**

**2. Angels called to shepherds,  
"Leave your flocks at rest,  
journey forth to Bethlehem,  
find the child so blest."**

**Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!**

**3. In Bethlehem they found him;  
Joseph and Mary mild,  
seated by the manger,  
watching the holy child.  
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!**

**4. From the eastern country  
came the kings afar,  
bearing gifts to Bethlehem  
guided by a star.  
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!**

**5. Gold and myrrh they took there,  
gifts of greatest price;  
there was never a stable  
so like paradise.  
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!**

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

## SCRIPTURE

Phyllis Elving

### Isaiah 35:1-10 (NIV)

The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;  
say to those with fearful hearts,  
"Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
he will come to save you."

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.  
Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that Way.  
The unclean will not journey on it;  
wicked fools will not go about on it.  
No lion will be there,  
nor any ravenous beast;  
they will not be found there.  
But only the redeemed will walk there,  
and those the Lord has rescued will return.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Luke 1:46-55 (NIV)

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me —  
holy is his name.  
His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”

RESPONSE

MARY, DID YOU KNOW?

Nicky Deremiah, mezzo-soprano

Mark Lowry

Buddy Greene

arr. Jack Schrader

SERMON

"Sacred Space, Joy"

Rev. Sunae Cho, Pastor

RESPONSE

WHAT STRANGERS ARE THESE

LMUMC Choir

Old Scottish Carol

arr. Richard Purvis

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

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

## CLOSING SONG

(Please stand if able)

### The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy TFWS 2098, verses 1, 2, 3

1. The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
And they say that his name is Jesus.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh yes, believer! Oh yes, believer!  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.
2. The angels sang when the baby was born,  
The angels sang when the baby was born,  
The angels sang when the baby was born,  
And they say that his name is Jesus.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh yes, believer! Oh yes, believer!  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.
3. The shepherds came where the baby was born,  
The shepherds came where the baby was born,  
The shepherds came where the baby was born,  
And they say that his name is Jesus.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh yes, believer! Oh yes, believer!  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.

CLOSING PRAYER (*UNISON*)

Phyllis Elving

**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 joy 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 Joy.  
Amen.**

Worship Design Studio (adapt)

POSTLUDE

*The First Noel* (*ORGAN*)

arr. John Carter