

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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reflecting the sacred

Advent/Christmas 2022

Sacred Knowing, Peace

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December 18, 2022
The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Peace)
SACRED KNOWING

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Mi Chun

Leader: We pray for Peace this day.

People: We pray for Peace 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 our deepest selves,

People: We open to see our deepest selves,

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 peace.

People: lighting the way to peace.

**All: Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Peace,
We give you thanks for this holy sensing of your presence.
As we take in the peace you offer,
May we be a reflection of your light,
Expanding the sacred knowing of "you are here for me"
Into the sacred knowing of "you are present for all of us."
Amen**

Worship Design Studio

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice UMH 224 (ORGAN)

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
 News, news!
Jesus Christ was born today!
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today,
 Christ is born today!

**2. Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this,
Christ was born for this!**

**3. Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save!**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Mi Chun

Isaiah 7:10-16 (NIV)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test."

Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph, her husband, was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

RESPONSE

AKANAMANDLA, USATHANE

African Gospel
People's Choir of Oakland

SERMON

"Sacred Knowing, Peace"

Rev. Sunae Cho, Pastor

RESPONSE

THE GRAND INVOCATION:
PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF THE PLANETARY WATERS

by Nobuo Shioya
People's Choir of Oakland

ZINGELA

by Lebo M
from *The Lion King*
People's Choir of Oakland

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)

Go, Tell It On the Mountain UMH 251

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold through-out the heavens
There shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

3. Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

CLOSING PRAYER (*UNISON*)

Mi Chun

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 peace 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 Peace.
Amen.

Worship Design Studio (adapt)

POSTLUDE

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly UMH 229

LMUMC Bell Choir