

**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

**DID JESUS  
REALLY  
SAY THAT?**  
The Difficult Words of Jesus

*The Difficult Words of Jesus*  
*Slaves of All*

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

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January 22, 2023  
Third Sunday After Epiphany  
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

INTROIT

SUNSHINE AND JOY MELODY

John Sweeney  
George Cooke  
arr. Mark Hayes

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Rose Lynn Abesamis-Bell

Leader: We are servants in training, gathered to learn and listen.

**People: We serve the Triune God, Ruler of All Creation.**

Leader: Our service requires us to do things that do not make sense to this world.

**People: We serve God the Creator, who creates abundance.**

Leader: Our service requires us to share our resources with the needy and vulnerable.

**People: We serve God the Redeemer, who redeems us from our sinfulness.**

Leader: Our service requires us to preach the good news of the Gospel in word and deed.

**People: We serve God the Sustainer, who sustains the world with Holy Breath.**

Leader: Our service requires us to be guided by Her wisdom in all that we do.

**People: We are servants of the Sacred, sealed in our baptism as disciples of Christ.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God! Amen

Rev. Stephen M. Fearing

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

*Jesu, Jesu* UMH 432

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love  
Show us how to serve  
The neighbors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of His friends,  
Silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them.  
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love  
Show us how to serve  
The neighbors we have from you.

2. Neighbors are rich and poor,  
Neighbors are black and white,  
Neighbors are near and far away.  
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love  
Show us how to serve  
The neighbors we have from you.

**3. These are the ones we should serve,  
These are the ones we should love;  
All these are neighbors to us and you.  
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love  
Show us how to serve  
The neighbors we have from you.**

**4. Loving puts us on our knees,  
Serving as though we are slaves,  
This is the way we should live with you.  
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love  
Show us how to serve  
The neighbors we have from you.**

**5. Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
Silently washing their feet,  
This is the way we should live with you.  
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love  
Show us how to serve  
The neighbors we have from you.**

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

## SCRIPTURE

Rose Lynn Abesamis-Bell

### Mark 10:35-45, MSG

James and John, Zebedee's sons, came up to him. "Teacher, we have something we want you to do for us."

"What is it? I'll see what I can do."

"Arrange it," they said, "so that we will be awarded the highest places of honor in your glory – one of us at your right, the other at your left."

Jesus said, "You have no idea what you're asking. Are you capable of drinking the cup I drink, of being baptized in the baptism I'm about to be plunged into?"

"Sure," they said. "Why not?"

Jesus said, "Come to think of it, you will drink the cup I drink, and be baptized in my baptism. But as to awarding places of honor, that's not my business. There are other arrangements for that."

When the other ten heard of this conversation, they lost their tempers with James and John. Jesus got them together to settle things down. "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around," he said, "and when people get a little power how quickly it goes to their heads. It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served – and then to give away his life in exchange for many who are held hostage."

## RESPONSE

### ARE YE ABLE UMH 530, verses 1, 4

1. "Are ye able," said the Master,  
"to be crucified with me?"  
"Yea," the sturdy dreamers answered,  
"to the death we follow thee."

Lord, we are able. Our spirits are thine.  
Remold them, make us, like thee, divine.  
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be  
a beacon to God, to love, and loyalty.

4. Are ye able? Still the Master  
whispers down eternity,  
and heroic spirits answer,  
now as then in Galilee.

Lord, we are able. Our spirits are thine.  
Remold them, make us, like thee, divine.  
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be  
a beacon to God, to love, and loyalty.

## SERMON

"The Difficult Words of Jesus,  
Slaves of All"

Rev. Sunae Cho, Pastor

## RESPONSE

### MAKE ME A SERVANT TFWS 2176

Make me a servant, humble and meek;  
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.  
And may the prayer of my heart always be:  
Make me a servant, make me a servant,  
Make me a servant today.

## 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

## I'M GONNA LIVE SO GOD CAN USE ME TFWS 2153

I'm gonna live so God can use me  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna live so God can use me  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna work so God can use me  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna work so God can use me  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna give so God can use me  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna give so God can use me  
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

## CLOSING SONG

(Please stand if able)

## Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service UMH 581

1. Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
Offered mercy's perfect deed,  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart,  
consecrating to your purpose  
every gift that you impart.
2. Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As O, Lord, your deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
use the love your Spirit kindles  
still to save and make us whole.
3. As we worship, grant us vision  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to tireless striving,  
your abundant life to share.

4. Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,  
counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know, and live.

CLOSING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Rose Lynn Abesamis-Bell

Leader: Can we drink of your cup?

People: Can we recognize the sacredness of every human life?  
-the immigrant, marginalized, trafficked, abandoned?

Leader: Can we serve others?

People: Certainly not on our own.

Leader: But through you, with you, in you?

People: Yes, with your grace.

Grant us to drink the cup with you,  
and become people for others.

Amen.

<https://liturgy.slu.edu>

POSTLUDE

God Leads Us Along

George A. Young  
arr. Larry Shackley