

**Lake Merritt United Methodist Church**

An Inclusive Christian Community of Oakland



**LAKE PARK**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

IN JOINT FELLOWSHIP

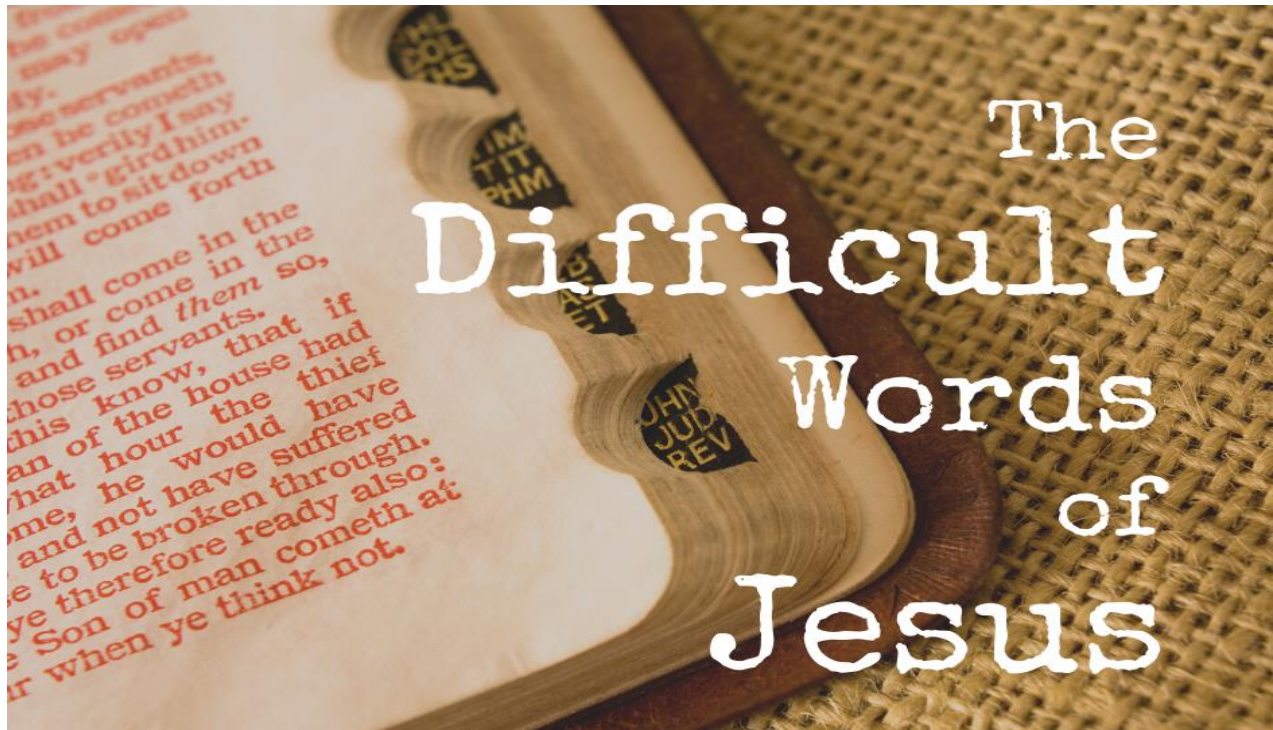
*Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.*

(510) 465-4793

[www.lakemerrittumc.org](http://www.lakemerrittumc.org)

1255 First Avenue

Oakland, CA 94606



*The Difficult Words of Jesus*  
*Your Father the Devil*

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

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

**Jim Meredith, *Music Director***

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

**Randi Hoy, *Church Administrator***

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

February 12, 2023  
Sixth Sunday After Epiphany  
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

INTROIT SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A MOTHERLESS CHILD Spiritual  
arr. Calvin Taylor

OPENING PRAYER (*UNISON*) Jim Clardy

ALL: God of heaven and earth,  
we long to be truly free.  
In this hour of worship,  
help us to grasp the freedom that comes  
from seeing you more clearly,  
loving you more dearly,  
and following you more nearly.  
Day by day, give us strength and courage  
to be your people in this time, in this place.  
Amen.

Leadinginworship.com

OPENING SONG (Please stand if able)

Just a Closer Walk with Thee TFWS 2158

1. I am weak, but thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
daily walking close to thee:  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
2. Through this world of toil and snares,  
if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
daily walking close to thee:  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
3. When my feeble life is o'er,  
time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er  
to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.  
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
daily walking close to thee:  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

## SCRIPTURE

Jim Clardy

John 8:39-47, CEB

They replied, "Our father is Abraham."

Jesus responded, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do Abraham's works. Instead, you want to kill me, though I am the one who has spoken the truth I heard from God. Abraham didn't do this. You are doing your father's works."

They said, "Our ancestry isn't in question! The only Father we have is God!"

Jesus replied, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God.

Here I am. I haven't come on my own. God sent me. Why don't you understand what I'm saying? It's because you can't really hear my words. Your father is the devil. You are his children, and you want to do what your father wants. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has never stood for the truth, because there's no truth in him.

Whenever that liar speaks, he speaks according to his own nature, because he's a liar and the father of liars. Because I speak the truth, you don't believe me. Who among you can show I'm guilty of sin? Since I speak the truth, why don't you believe me?

God's children listen to God's words. You don't listen to me because you aren't God's children."

RESPONSE LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN UMH 402, verses 1 & 4

**1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;**

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**In my heart, (in my heart)**

**in my heart, (in my heart)**

**Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

**In my heart, (in my heart)**

**in my heart, (in my heart)**

**Lord I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

## SERMON

**THE DIFFICULT WORDS OF JESUS**  
**"YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL"**

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

## RESPONSE

OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL CITY

Spiritual

arr. Edward Boatner  
sung by Khristle Jordan

## PRAYERS &amp; 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)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light UMH 206 (ORGAN)

**1. I want to walk as a child of the light**

**I want to follow Jesus**

**God sent the stars to give light to the world**

**The star of my life is Jesus**

**In him, there is no darkness at all**

**The night and the day are both alike**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God**

**Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2. I want to see the brightness of God**

**I want to look at Jesus**

**Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path**

**And show me the way to the Father**

**In him, there is no darkness at all**

**The night and the day are both alike**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God**

**Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ  
I want to be with Jesus  
When we have run with patience the race  
We shall know the joy of Jesus  
In him, there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**CLOSING PRAYER** (*RESPONSIVE*)

Jim Clardy

Leader: O Holy One, it's not that we are loathsome as much as we are broken –

**People: Mend the broken places, and make them stronger.**

Leader: O Holy One, we are lost and cannot find our way home –

**People: Come and find us; rescue us from the frightening places.**

Leader: O Holy One, there is just too much, and we are so anxious about it all –

**People: Infuse peace and serenity in our hearts.**

Leader: O Holy One, we are locked up in cells of our own making, and in the prisons  
our culture creates –

**People: Free us, liberate us, release us from the bondage that limits our full  
expression of love and faith.**

Leader: O Holy One, there is so much that is not right –

**People: Remind us that you have claimed the world, and us, as your own, good and  
beloved and redeemed.**

**Amen.**

Beth Merrill Neel (adapt)

**POSTLUDE**

**Honor, Honor Unto the Dying Lamb**

Spiritual  
arr. Calvin Taylor