

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church

An Inclusive Christian Community of Oakland



LAKE PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IN JOINT FELLOWSHIP

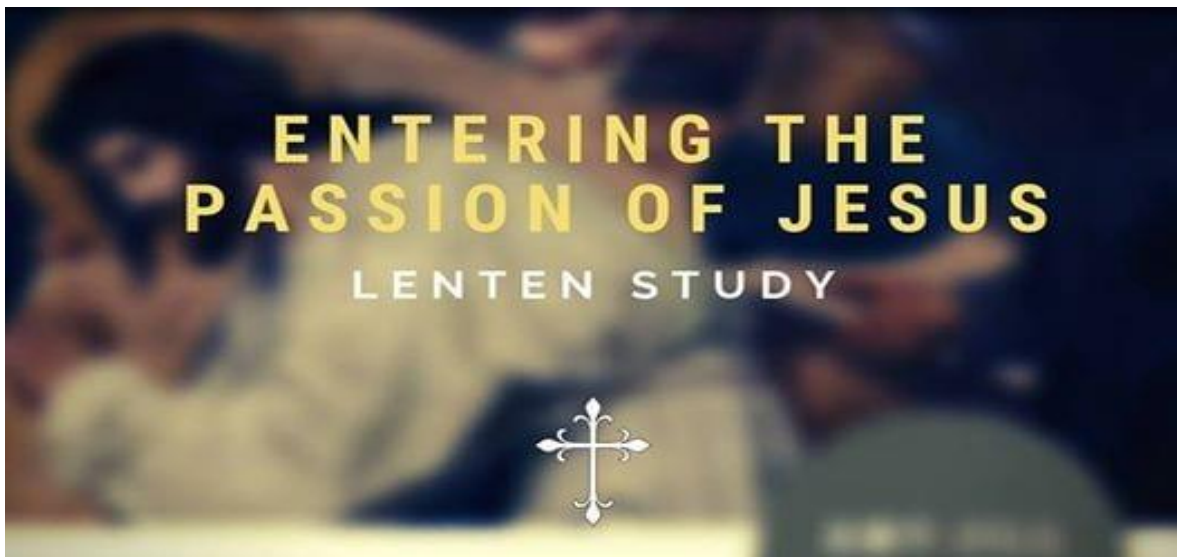
Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.

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Entering the Passion of Jesus
The First Dinner: Risking Rejection

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

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March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

INTROIT

Laudate Dominum

LMUMC Bell Choir

OPENING PRAYER (*UNISON*)

Andrew Champion

All: Giver of the most expensive gift of all, help us to learn from you.

**May we who are so adept at catering to our own wants,
make ourselves more vulnerable to the needs of others.**

**Let us live unselfishly and more sensitively, that we may spread love's
fragrance**

wherever the odor of cynicism and despair hangs in the air.

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen!

Bruce Prewar

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

Stand By Me UMH 512, verses 1, 2, 3

**1. When the storms of life are raging,
stand by me (stand by me);**

**when the storms of life are raging,
stand by me (stand by me).**

**When the world is tossing me
like a ship upon the sea,
thou who rulest wind and water,
Stand by me (stand by me).**

**2. In the midst of tribulation,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of tribulation,
stand by me (stand by me).**

**When the hosts of hell assail,
and my strength begins to fail,
thou who never lost a battle,
stand by me (stand by me).**

**3. In the midst of faults and failures,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of faults and failures,
stand by me (stand by me).**

**When I've done the best I can,
and my friends misunderstand,
thou who knowest all about me,
stand by me (stand by me).**

SCRIPTURE

Andrew Champion

Matthew 14:3-9 NIV

While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

RESPONSE

More Precious Than Silver TFWS 2065 (2x)

Lord, you are more precious than silver.

Lord, you are more costly than gold.

Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds,

And nothing I desire compares with you.

SERMON

"THE FIRST DINNER: RISKING REJECTION" Rev. Sunae Cho

RESPONSE

Laudate Dominum (Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord)

W&S 3007 (ORGAN)

Laudate Dominum

Laudate Dominum

Omnes gentes, Alleluia!

Laudate Dominum

Laudate Dominum

Omnes gentes, Alleluia!

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.

Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.

Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

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

Christ for the World We Sing UMH 568, verses 2, 4

2. Christ for the world we sing,
the world to Christ we bring,
with fervent prayer;
the wayward and the lost,
by restless passions tossed,
redeemed at countless cost,
from dark despair.

4. Christ for the world we sing,
the world to Christ we bring,
with joyful song;
the newborn souls, whose days,
reclaimed from error's ways,
inspired with hope and praise,
to Christ belong.

CLOSING SONG

(Please stand if able)

Be Thou My Vision UMH 451 (ORGAN)

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
3. Great God of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

CLOSING PRAYER (*UNISON*)

Andrew Champion

**All: Lord Jesus, you freely poured out your precious life for us
after first joyfully accepting the extravagant offering
of the woman who anointed you with expensive nard.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit of generosity so that we, too,
may follow the example set by her,
giving without counting the cost,
being motivated by nothing but love of you and of neighbor.
May it be so! Amen.**

Rev. Dr. Donna Fowler-Marchant

POSTLUDE

Fantasy in A minor (ORGAN)

J.S. Bach