

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church

An Inclusive Christian Community of Oakland



LAKE PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IN JOINT FELLOWSHIP

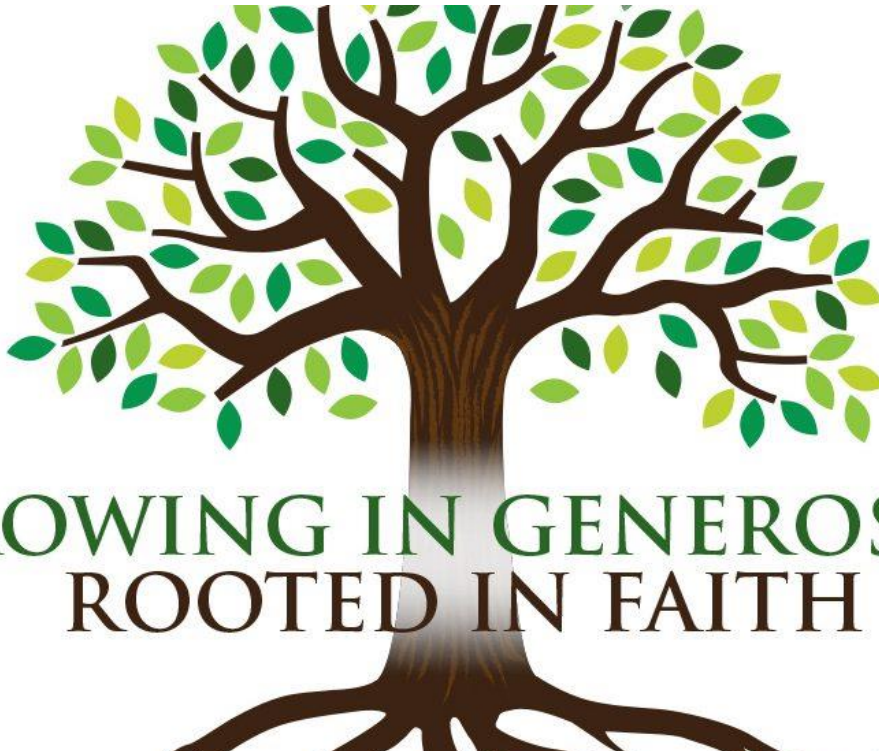
Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.

(510) 465-4793

www.lakemerrittumc.org

1255 First Avenue

Oakland, CA 94606



**GROWING IN GENEROSITY
ROOTED IN FAITH**

Stewardship Sunday
What Faith Teaches About Giving

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

pastor@lakemerrittumc.org

Jim Meredith, *Music Director*

jimmeredith@mac.com

Randi Hoy, *Church Administrator*

office@lakemerrittumc.org

May 14, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

INTROIT

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Traditional
arr. Mark Hayes

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Jane Sliheet

Leader: We are gathered to give witness to the enduring realities of life.

**People: We have come to affirm that life is a gift, that the gift is good,
and that it comes from God.**

Leader: We are gathered to renew our hope in Jesus Christ,
as we travel life's long journey.

**People: We find God in the paths of our present and our past, but we also
trust in God's love in our future.**

Leader: The same God guides us all the way, every day of our lives, and beyond life.

**People: Let us praise God with our whole hearts, and entrust our lives
to God's hands. Amen.**

The Presbyterian Church of Canada

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

How Shall I Come Before the Lord W&S 3124 (ORGAN)

1. How shall I come before the Lord
And bow myself with heart outpoured?
And shall I come with offering?
What shall I give? What shall I bring?

2. Will finest gifts bring God's delight?
Will wealth bring favor in God's sight?
What must we be? What must we do?
What does the Lord require of you?

3. Let justice shine in all your ways.
Let loving kindness rule your days,
That, as this earthly path you trod,
You shall walk humbly with your God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:41-44 NIV

Jane Sliheet

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on."

RESPONSE

Two Small Coins (sung to UMH 694)

Words by Margaret LeWright

Two small coins were all she had
Two small coins she gave away
To the temple, poor she came
All she had she gave that day
Most gave what they would not miss
Giving what they could afford
Make us like the widow come
Share our riches with the Lord

SERMON "WHAT FAITH TEACHES ABOUT GIVING" Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

Virginia Turner
Sue Dickey

RESPONSE

I Surrender All UMH 354, verse 1

All to Jesus I surrender;
all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
In his presence daily live.
I surrender all,
I surrender all,
All to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

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

What Gift Can We Bring UMH 87, verses 1, 4

1. What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
What words can convey it the joy of this day?
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
what song can we now offer in honor and praise?
4. This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise.

CLOSING SONG

The First Song of Isaiah

(Please stand if able)

Jack Noble White
LMUMC Choir and Congregation
Max Nguyen, percussion
Nimah Rowden, bass guitar

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.

1. Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation
and on that day you shall say,
"Give thanks to the Lord
and call upon God's name."

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.

2. Make his deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord,
for he has done great things
and this is known in all the world.

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.

3. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion;
ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel.

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.

CLOSING PRAYER (*UNISON*)

Jane Sliheet

All: O Lord,
you graciously pour out your blessings on us.
Your gifts surround us.

Despite our abundance,
help us see the widow's gift,
for we long to give as she did,
gladly giving all she had.

All we have
is a gift from your hand.
Help us loosen our hands,
giving to the work of this church on your behalf,
for in giving freely to you,
we gain the opportunity
to live abundant lives. Amen.

Ministry Matters

POSTLUDE

Rejoicing (from Water Music)

G.F. Handel