

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
Generosity and the Way of God

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

pastor@lakemerrittumc.org

Jim Meredith, *Music Director*

jimmeredith@mac.com

Randi Hoy, *Church Administrator*

office@lakemerrittumc.org

May 7, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Easter
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

INTROIT

Blessed Assurance

Phoebe P. Knapp

Traditional Spiritual

arr. Mary McDonald

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Brent Kenny and Galia Fragoso

Leaders: We come to worship, weighed down with worry;

People: Worry about money, worry about work, worry about the future.

Leaders: We come to worship hoping to hear a word;

People: A word of hope, a word of assurance, a word of peace.

Leaders: Jesus reminds us that we do not need to worry.

If God cares for the birds of the air and the grass of the field,
won't God care for each one of us?

**People: We come to remember that God knows our every need
and will provide.**

All: Let us worship God. Amen.

gnjumc.com

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

1. He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

2. He's got you and me brother in his hands.
He's got you and me sister in his hands.
He's got you and me brother in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

3. He's got everybody here in his hands.
He's got everybody here in his hands.
He's got everybody here in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:25-34 NIV

Brent Kenny and Galia Fragoso

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

SERMON

“Generosity & the Way of God”

Rev. Sunae Cho, Pastor
Patty Staggs, Finance
Barbara Ganitch, OMF

RESPONSE

Halle, Halle, Halle

setting by Hal H. Hopson
LMUMC Choir

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Sunae Cho, Pastor

A CELEBRATION OF WORD AND TABLE

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
Who earnestly repent of their sin
And seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION & PARDON (*UNISON*)

ALL: Merciful God,

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
We have broken your law,
We have rebelled against your love,
We have not loved our neighbors,
And we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENCE IS KEPT FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION & HOPE

Pastor: Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while you were yet sinners;
That proves God’s love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Let us offer one another signs of peace and love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through the prophet.
And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Please sing along, TFWS 2257-b)

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit anointed him
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.
When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
In remembrance of me.”

And so,
In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
As a holy and living sacrifice,
In union with Christ’s offering for us,
As we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(Please sing along, TFWS 2257-c)

**ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

(Please sing along, TFWS 2257-d)

**ALL: Amen, Amen, Amen.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

SHARING IN THE BREAD AND CUP
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.*

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

(Please stand if able)

God Will Take Care of You UMH 130, verses 1, 2, 3

1. Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
beneath his wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.
God will take care of you,
through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you,
God will take care of you.
2. Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you;
when dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.
God will take care of you,
through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you,
God will take care of you.
3. All you may need he will provide,
God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.
God will take care of you,
through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you,
God will take care of you.

CLOSING PRAYER *(RESPONSIVE)*

Brent Kenny and Galia Fragoso

Leaders: We came here this morning looking for solace.

People: **We've tried to find happiness in accumulating more,
but instead have added stress.**

Leaders: We came here this morning looking for hope.

People: **We have seen where greed has led to sorrow.**

Leaders: We came here this morning looking for answers.

People: **We now go out into the world and place our trust
in God's abundant love to fulfill our needs. Amen.**

gnjumc.com (adapt)

POSTLUDE

Solace

Scott Joplin