

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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Beatitudes

Blessed Are Those Who Are

Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake

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July 9, 2023
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

INTROIT

I Need Thee Every Hour (ORGAN)

Robert Lowry

arr. Don Phillips

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Joseph Koroma

Leader: We gather this morning to remember our call:

People: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

Leader: We bring with us the events of the week in the world and in our lives,

People: Trying to know how to be just and loving and humble in the midst of it all.

Leader: We gather here, and see those who are doing justice,

who are kind beyond measure, who set the example for humility.

All: With gratitude for living saints,

with thankfulness for the purpose of faith,

let us worship God. Amen.

Beth Merrill Neel

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

All Who Love and Serve Your City

UMH 433, verses 1, 2, 4 (ORGAN)

1. All who love and serve your city,
All who bear its daily stress,
All who cry for peace and justice,
All who curse and all who bless.

2. In your day of loss and sorrow,
In your day of helpless strife,
Honor, peace, and love retreating,
Seek the Lord, who is your life.

4. For all days are days of judgment,
And the Lord is waiting still,
Drawing near to all who spurn him,
Offering peace from Calvary's hill.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

This Little Light of Mine

LMUMC Children

Congregation

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:1-2, 10-12 NIV

Joseph Koroma

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

SERMON

**"Blessed Are Those Who Are
Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake"**

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

Suanu Bere

RESPONSE

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

UMH 526, verses 1, 3

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

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

Surely the Presence of the Lord UMH 328, x2 (ORGAN)

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations UMH 569

1. We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy,
a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

2. We've a song to be sung to the nations,
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil
and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword.

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

3. We've a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us,
and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love.

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

4. We've a Savior to show to the nations,
who the path of sorrow hath trod,
that all of the world's great peoples
might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God.

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

CLOSING PRAYER *(RESPONSIVE)*

Joseph Koroma

Leader: We take a risk today

People: as we place ourselves
at the service of the Gospel
knowing that to do so
will involve us in a struggle
that is both inner and outer,
knowing that we have come
to a point where we cannot
make sense of life without God.

Leader: We take a risk today

People: by leaving this community
to go and create community,
knowing that to do so
will put us in conflict
with those who seek their own self interest.

Leader: We take a risk today

People: by going our separate ways.
But you, Jesus Christ, come with us
and that is all that matters.

All: So send us out now,
we are ready to come with You. Amen.

Pilgrimwr.unitingchurch

POSTLUDE

This Little Light of Mine

Henry Dixon Loes

arr. Calvin Taylor