

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

Come to the Table...

You are always invited. You are always welcome.
You are always wanted.

Come as you are.

"The Table of Hospitality"
Thanksgiving Sunday

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

pastor@lakemerrittumc.org

Rev. Dr. Dale Tremper

Lake Park Community Engagement Pastor

dale.tremper@gmail.com

Jim Meredith, *Music Director*

jimmeredith@mac.com

Deacon Ken Schoon, *Church Administrator*

office@lakemerrittumc.org

November 26, 2023
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

INTROIT

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying

J.S. Bach

arr. Reginald Gerig

Linda Weingarten

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Leader: The table of God's love is set before us.

People: Let us come to the banquet.

Leader: The table of God's grace is set before us.

People: Let us come to the banquet.

Leader: The table of God's salvation is set before us.

People: Let us come to the banquet.

Leader: But before we come, we must know – all are invited to the table:

People: the rich and the poor

the old and the young

the conservative and the liberal

the gracious and the greedy.

Leader: All are invited.

All: The table of God's hospitality is set before us.

Let us come to the banquet with joy. Amen

spacious faith

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

UMH 694 [organ]

1. Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.
2. All the world is God's own field,
fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

3. For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offenses purge away,
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:9-21 (MSG)

Linda Weingarten

Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

SERMON

"THE TABLE OF HOSPITALITY"

Rev. Sunae Cho, Pastor

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 THE PEACE

LIVING AS THE CHURCH

OFFERING & THANKSGIVING

Grace Alone

TFWS 2162

1. Every promise we can make,
every prayer and step of faith,
every difference we can make
is only by his grace.

Every mountain we will climb,
every ray of hope we shine,
every blessing left behind
is only by his grace.

Grace alone which God supplies,
strength unknown he will provide.

Christ in us our Cornerstone;
we will go forth in grace alone.

2. Every soul we long to reach,
every heart we hope to teach,
everywhere we share his peace
is only by his grace.

Every loving word we say,
every tear we wipe away,
every sorrow turned to praise
is only by his grace.

Grace alone which God supplies,
strength unknown he will provide.

Christ in us our Cornerstone;
we will go forth in grace alone.

CLOSING SONG

Now Thank We All Our God

(Please stand if able)

UMH 102 [organ]

1. Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills,
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

CLOSING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Linda Weingarten

Leader: Gracious God,
we stand in awe of people who showed hospitality
in the midst of sacrifice and betrayal.

People: Take us deep into the heart of hospitality.

Leader: Help us to understand that the generosity the world needs
often demands sacrifice on our part.

**People: Be with those who have never known a table
blessed by laughter and welcome,**

Leader: who have seldom heard affirmations
and who do not know your abiding love.

**All: Remind us, O God, that we are to set many tables,
to speak blessings often,
and to be your love in the world.**

In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Cynthia Langston Kirk. (adapt)

POSTLUDE [organ]

Now Thank We All Our God

Sigfrid Karg-Elert