

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



"The Table of Love"

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

December 3, 2023
First Sunday in Advent
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Abesamis-Bell Family

On this first Sunday of Advent, we remember the gift of love we have in Christ. The Bible says that "God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."
As we light this candle, we are reminded that we are called to show that love in the way we treat others.

Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love - shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by loving others as Christ loves us. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen

INTROIT

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

Provence Carol
arr. David Cherwien

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

The Abesamis-Bell Family

Leader: Come, people of faith,
come join your hearts in worship.

**People: We hear the invitation
and hunger to join in the feast.**

Leader: God is faithful and calls us into the loving presence
of Jesus, who is the Christ.

**All: We come to join with those who watch
and wait and celebrate. Amen.**

Ministry Matters

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

Love Came Down at Christmas

UMH 242 [organ]

1. Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.

2. Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus,
but wherewith for sacred sign?

3. Love shall be our token;
love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and neighbor,
love for plea and gift and sign.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:24-37 (CEB)

The Abesamis-Bell Family

“In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won't give its light. The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. Then they will see the Human One coming in the clouds with great power and splendor. Then he will send the angels and gather together his chosen people from the four corners of the earth, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven.

“Learn this parable from the fig tree. After its branch becomes tender and it sprouts new leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that he's near, at the door. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

“But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows. Watch out! Stay alert! You don't know when the time is coming. It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one a job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know when the head of the household will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. Don't let him show up when you weren't expecting and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Stay alert!”

SERMON

“THE TABLE OF LOVE”

Rev. Sunae Cho, Pastor

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*
& Rev. Dr. Dale Tremper

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 the 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

He Came Down

TFWS 2085 (2x)

He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah forevermore.

CLOSING SONG

People, Look East

UMH 202

(Please stand if able)

1. People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.
4. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

CLOSING PRAYER *(RESPONSIVE)*

The Abesamis-Bell Family

Leader: As we go out to meet a hungry world,
know that God will give us what we need.

People: We go forth to make ready as we wait.

Leader: The Holy One, whose love turns fear aside,
will show us what to do.

All: Keep watch! The Christ child is on the way! Amen

Ministry Matters (adpt)

POSTLUDE [organ]

In dulci júbilo

J. S. Bach