

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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"The Table of Peace"

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

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December 10, 2023
Second Sunday in Advent
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Gameros/Tremper Family

On this second Sunday of Advent, we remember the gift of peace we have in Christ. Peace is the gift that we must be prepared for and must work for. God gives us the gift of peace when we turn to him working together in faith. As we light this candle, we are reminded to work for that peace of Christ to come and take root in us.

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by working for Christ's peace to take root.

We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

INTROIT

Sicilienne, Op 78

Gabriel Fauré

Kelesha Martin, flute

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

The Gameros/Tremper Family

Leader: Prepare the path of God.

People: We prepare by waiting with patience.

Leader: Prepare the path of God.

People: We prepare by living with faith and love.

Leader: Prepare the path of God.

People: We prepare by offering a table of peace.

Leader: Prepare the path of God.

People: We prepare, we wait, we pray.

All: We worship and praise God's holy name. Amen.

Mary Scifres (adapt)

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

UMH 218 [organ]

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:1-8 (CEB)

The Gameros/Tremper Family

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger before you.
He will prepare your way,
a voice shouting in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight."

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

SERMON

"THE TABLE OF PEACE"

Rev. Dr. Dale Tremper

RESPONSE

Down By the Riverside

African-American Spiritual

arr. Joyce Eilers

LMUMC Choir

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

He Came Down

TFWS 2085 (3x)

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

CLOSING SONG

Blessed Be the God of Israel

(Please stand if able)

UMH 209 [organ]

- 1. Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.**
- 2. Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.**
- 3. On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!**

CLOSING PRAYER (*UNISON*)

The Gameros/Tremper Family

All: May the peace of Christ settle gently and warmly upon our spirits.

May it settle our nerves, fill our minds, and flood our souls.

May we share this peace with all those we encounter.

May this be our prayer today, and may it guide us through this season. Amen.

Walter W. Wessel (adpt)

POSTLUDE [organ]

Sonata de 1° tono, *Allegro*

José Lidón