

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 Women"

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

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March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Woman In The Night

LMUMC Bell Choir

words by Brian Wren, music by Charles H. Webb
2nd verse written by Margaret LeWright

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Sherri Elinson

Leader: God of life, God of beginnings and endings,
today we gather to remember the power of death.

People: Today we tell a fragment of the story of what happens
when someone angers those in power,
when there is betrayal by a friend,
trial by empire, and execution as a way
of silencing one who names injustice.

Leader: Today we tell the story of the faithful women at the cross.

All: This story happened long ago in a land far away,
but it is a story that continues to happen today
in places close at hand. Amen.

Rev. Gord (adapt)

OPENING SONG [*ORGAN*]

(Please stand if able)

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

UMH 297

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat,
and the burden of the day.

2. Upon that cross of Jesus
mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One
who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears
two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love
and my unworthiness.

3. I take, O cross, thy shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Mark 15: 40-41 (NIV)

Sherri Elinson

Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

John 19:25-27 (NIV)

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"THE WOMEN"

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

RESPONSE

Mary, Did You Know?

Mark Lowry/Buddy Greene

Isaac Nguyen, treble

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 [ORGAN]

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

UMH 581 vs 1,4

1. Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
offered mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose
every gift that you impart.
4. Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord in freedom
may your mercy know, and live.

CLOSING SONG [ORGAN]

(Please stand if able)

Were You There?

UMH 288 vs 1-3

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

CLOSING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Sherri Elinson

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ,
you died to save us.
You allowed yourself to be spit upon.
Mocked. Lied about.
You didn't open your mouth.

**People: And women who loved you watched you die.
Perhaps they huddled together as you took your last breath.
They loved you from a distance.
They did not leave you.**

Leader: May we also be the ones who stand with you.
May we love you, and serve you,
knowing that you have saved us.

**All: May we remember your time on the cross, Lord Jesus.
May we be encouraged by the example of these women,
who were not always valued by those in authority,
but who were loved by you. Amen.**

sfumc.org (adapt)

POSTLUDE [ORGAN]

Toccata XII

Girolamo Frescobaldi