

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



WITNESS AT THE CROSS

A Lenten Journey

"The Allies"

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

March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday / Sixth Sunday in Lent
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Ride On, King Jesus
LMUMC Bell Choir

Spiritual
arr. Sharon Elery Rogers

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Sia-Linda Lebbie

Leader: At the beginning of this holy week, we gather.

We know we will spend time with Jesus in his suffering.

When the glory of Palm Sunday is behind us and the victory of Easter has not yet come, we will experience grief and sorrow.

People: In this world that is at once beautiful and holy and tragic,

We seek to be present with all who suffer.

When sorrow threatens to overwhelm,

We long for a brave and sacred space –

A space where we can listen and sing and pray,

A space to sit with our grief and our questions.

All: Let us be that space for each other.

As we remember the story together. Amen.

Joanna Harader (adapt)

OPENING SONG [ORGAN]

(Please stand if able)

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
UMH 278

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

2. From Olivet they followed
mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.

3. "Hosanna in the highest!"
that ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Timothy George Rivantez

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

To the parents and godparents:

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

Will you nurture **Timothy George Rivantez** in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example, he may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves, to profess his faith openly and to lead a Christian life?

I will.

To the congregation:

Do you, as Christ's body, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Timothy now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround him with a community of love and forgiveness that he may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in his service to others. We will pray for him that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

To all:

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor:

Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos,
you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood
you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,
you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan...
to the land which you promised.

All: Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

Pastor: In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb.
He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to
share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all
nations.

All: Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pastor:

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

All: All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

Presentation of Certificates & Candles

Hymn: Jesus Loves Me, Hymn # 191, verse 1 (2x)

**Jesus loves me!
This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The bible tells me so.**

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brother in Christ!

Congregation:

**Through baptism
you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit
into God's new creation
and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.
We are all one in Christ Jesus.
With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you
as a member of the family of Christ. Amen.**

RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Shannon J. Bruce
Josefina V. Gabuya

As members of Christ's universal Church,
will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church,
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

I will.

RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

Lichen Mei
Weichi Chen

As members of this congregation,
will you faithfully participate in its ministries
by your prayers, your presence,
your gifts, your service
and your witness?

I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

To the congregation:

Members of the household of God,
I commend these persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,**

**we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our witness
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**

To those baptized or received:

The God of all grace,
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that you may live in grace and peace. Amen.

It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON

"THE ALLIES"

Rev. Dr. Dale Tremper

RESPONSE

Ride On, King Jesus

LMUMC Choir

Paul Tavernier, soloist

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)

Be Still, My Soul

UMH 534

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
2. Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future, as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.
3. Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

CLOSING PRAYER (RESPONSIVE)

Sia-Linda Lebbie

Leader: O Lord, you rode on.

People: You rode over the cloaks and under the branches,
You rode through the shouts and past the praises,

Leader: O Lord, you rode on.

People: You rode towards the controversy and the cost,
You rode towards the curses and the cross,

Leader: O Lord, you rode on.

People: You rode through the tomb and the grave,
You rode through our time and space,

Leader: O Lord, you rode on.

People: We remember the journey you have taken
as we commit ourselves to walking in the same way.

All: Give us the strength, hope, and joy we need
as we follow. In your name we pray, Amen.

Rev. Joe Welty

POSTLUDE

When Jesus Wept
LMUMC Choir

William Billings