

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church



An Inclusive Christian Community of Oakland

Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.

(510) 465-4793
1255 First Avenue

www.lakemerrittumc.org
Oakland, CA 94606



"Iridescent"

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Lead Pastor*
pastor@lakemerrittumc.org

Rev. Dr. Dale Tremper
Associate Pastor
dale.tremper@gmail.com

Jim Meredith, *Music Director*
jimmeredith@mac.com

Deacon Ken Schoon, *Church Administrator*
office@lakemerrittumc.org

May 26, 2024
First Sunday After Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE Open the Eyes of My Heart/Be Thou My Vision
Paul Belouche / Traditional Irish, arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME Rev. Sunae Cho, *Lead Pastor*

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*) Andrew Champion

Leader: Love us from the inside out, God. Take the thoughts we hide deep inside and
burn them with your purifying fire.

People: Love us from the inside out, God.

Leader: Take the roots of our mistrust and deaden their hold on our lives.

People: Love us from the inside out, God.

Leader: Take the thoughts that run freely in our minds and trap them in your grace.

People: Love us from the inside out, God.

Leader: Take the hope you have planted in us and nourish it with the support of the
church.

People: Love us from the inside out, God.

Leader: Take the gift of the Spirit living in us and ignite your love to lead us to your
service.

People: Love us from the inside out, God.

Leader: Take your love in us and let it infuse our living.

All: Love us, love us from the inside out, God. Amen.

A. L. Drennan (adapt)

OPENING SONG [ORGAN] (Please stand if able)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH 206

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

In Him, there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.

In Him, there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.

In Him, there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 1:1-10 (CEB)

Andrew Champion

These are the words of Jeremiah, Hilkiah's son, who was one of the priests from Anathoth in the land of Benjamin. The Lord's word came to Jeremiah in the thirteenth year of Judah's King Josiah, Amon's son, and throughout the rule of Judah's King Jehoiakim, Josiah's son, until the fifth month of the eleventh year of King Zedekiah, Josiah's son, when the people of Jerusalem were taken into exile.

The Lord's word came to me:

"Before I created you in the womb I knew you;
before you were born I set you apart;
I made you a prophet to the nations."

"Ah, Lord God," I said, "I don't know how to speak
because I'm only a child."

The Lord responded,
"Don't say, 'I'm only a child.'
Where I send you, you must go;
what I tell you, you must say.

Don't be afraid of them,
because I'm with you to rescue you,"
declares the Lord.

Then the Lord stretched out his hand,
touched my mouth, and said to me,
"I'm putting my words in your mouth.

This very day I appoint you over nations and empires,
to dig up and pull down,
to destroy and demolish,
to build and plant."

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE

Go Ye Into All the World

Eugene Butler

LMUMC Choir

SERMON

“Iridescent”

Hope Hilton, *Joint Youth Group Director of Buena Vista UMC & Lake Merritt UMC*

THE CONFIRMATION LITURGY

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through confirmation, and through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

PRESENTING OF CONFIRMAND

Hope Hilton

With joy, we present John Champion for confirmation.

We are delighted to welcome you. Already you are a member of the church by your baptism and the power of the Holy Spirit. Today, in confirmation, the church prays that you may be strengthened and sustained to remain in Christ forever.

Let us pray: God of love, we give you thanks for our own calling to be disciples of Christ. Through our life of faith and love, may your grace be known and your name honored; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Rev. Sunae Cho

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?

Confirmand and Congregation: I do.

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

Confirmand and Congregation: 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?

Confirmand and Congregation: I do.

According to the grace given to you, will you remain a faithful member of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representative in the world?

Confirmand and Congregation: I do.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Sunae Cho

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

Confirmand and Congregation: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Confirmand and Congregation: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

FAITH STATEMENT

John Champion

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS AND CONFIRMATION

Rev. Sunae Cho

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, remember your baptism and be thankful.

Confirmands, remember your baptism and be thankful.

Confirmand and Congregation: Amen.

(Parents, family, teachers and sponsors are invited to place hands on the head of each person)

Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

Confirmand and Congregation: Amen.

PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE AND CANDLE

Hope Hilton

You belong to Christ, the light of the world.
Walk in the ways of Christ
so that others may see your good works and give glory to God.

THE CHARGE TO THE CONFIRMAND

Rev. Sunae Cho

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?

Confirmand: I will.

Do you promise with God's help to live by the three simple rules of Methodism: To do no harm, to do good and stay in love with God?

Confirmand: I do.

Will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?

Confirmand: I will.

THE COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, Pastor

Members of the household of God, I commend John to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

Congregation: We rejoice to recognize you as a member of Christ's holy church and bid you welcome to Lake Merritt United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you will be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal. Amen.

THE BLESSING (UNISON)

Rev. Sunae Cho, Pastor

May the mystery of God enfold you.

May the wisdom of God uphold you.

May the fragrance of God be around you.

May the brightness of God surround you.

May the wonder of God renew you.

May the loving of God flow through you.

May the peace of God deeply move you.

May the moving of God bring you peace. Amen.

(Joy Cowley, Alleluia Aotearoa 95)

RESPONSE

Light a Candle for Peace

Shelley Murley

Nora Abesamis-Bell, vocalist

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]

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

UMH 334 (x2)

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know that it's the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us,
filling us with your love;
and for these blessings
we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know
that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

CLOSING SONG [ORGAN]

(Please stand if able)

Here I Am, Lord

UMH 593

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

CLOSING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Andrew Champion

Leader: Go into the world: dance, laugh, sing, and create.

People: We go with the assurance of God's blessing.

Leader: Go into the world: risk, explore, discover, and love.

People: We go with the assurance of God's grace.

Leader: Go into the world: believe, hope, struggle, and remember.

People: We go with the assurance of God's love.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

North Presbyterian Church

POSTLUDE *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Sebastian Temple
arr. Jane Holstein