

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church

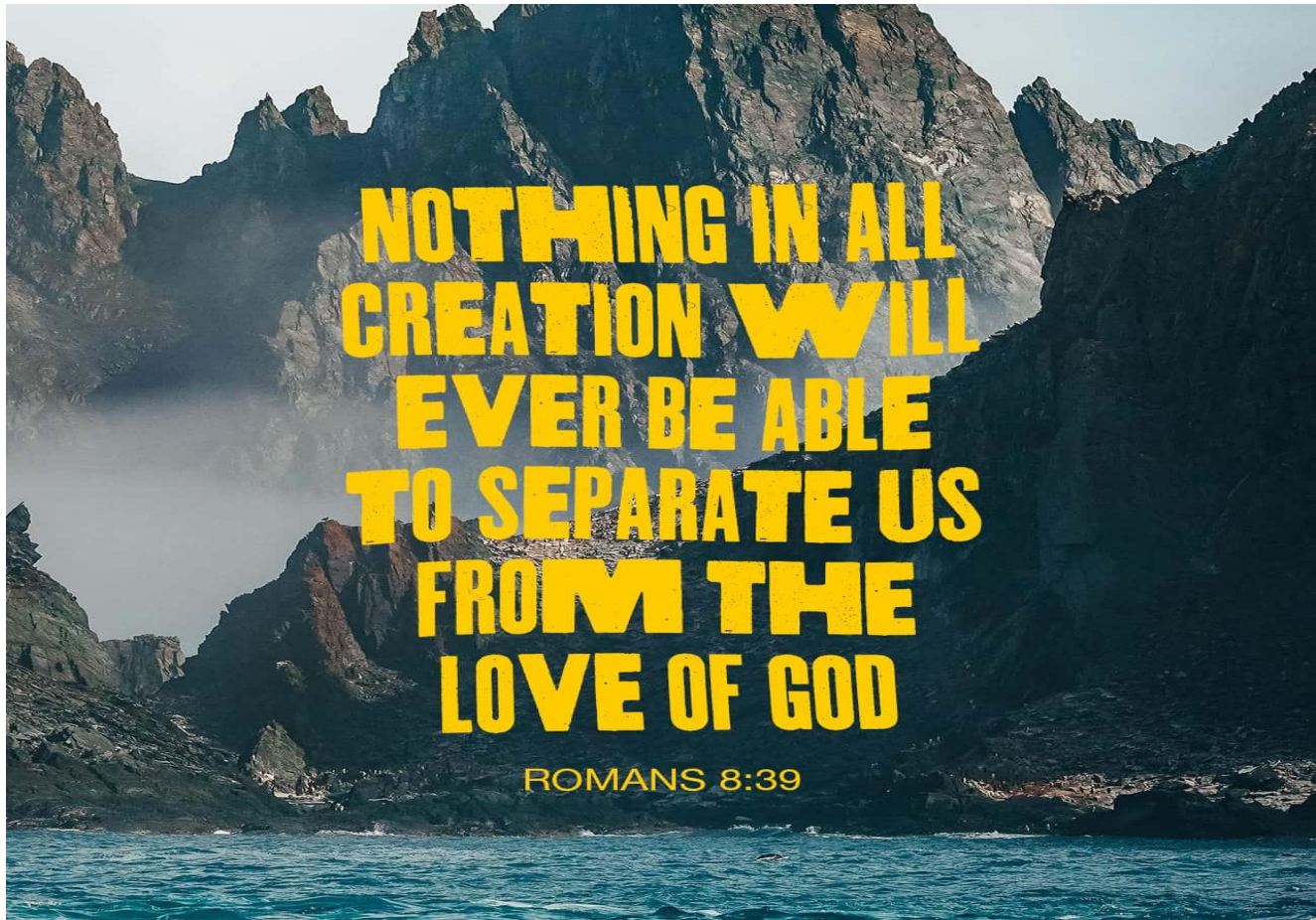


An Inclusive Christian Community of Oakland

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

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"The Reign/Rain of God"

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June 9, 2024
Third Sunday after Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE [ORGAN]

○ Perfect Love

Joseph Barnby
arr. Janet Linker

WELCOME

Alex Banash

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Dan Strauss

Leader: Before God spoke the first word of creation, there was love.

People: Before anyone entered the sanctuary this morning, love was already here.

Leader: When we draw our last breath and leave this world, love will be waiting for us.

People: That love is God, which will always be with us.

All: Let us worship God. Amen.

Beth Merrill Neel (adapt)

OPENING SONG [ORGAN]

(Please stand if able)

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

UMH 126

1. Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.

2. The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.

3. Thus all my toilsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,
that earth may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

4. Let all who name Christ's holy name
give God all praise and glory;
let all who own his power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
To God all praise and glory.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:38-39 (CEB)

Dan Strauss

I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON

"THE REIGN/RAIN OF GOD"

Rev. Mike Friedrich, *Deacon*

RESPONSE

Rain Down

Jaime Cortez

LMUMC Choir

arr. John Carter

PRAYERS & GRATITUDES

Alex Banash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Mike Friedrich, *Deacon*

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

Alex Banash

LIVING AS THE CHURCH

Alex Banash

OFFERING & THANKSGIVING [ORGAN]

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

UMH 334

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

(Please stand if able)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

CLOSING PRAYER (*UNISON*)

Dan Strauss

All: May the peace of God reign in this place
and the love of God forever hold you tight.
May the Spirit of God flow through your life
and the joy of God uphold you day and night. Amen.

faithandworship

POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign

John Warrington Hatton
arr. Mark Hayes