

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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Pride Sunday!

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

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

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

September 8, 2024
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE [HPD] “Aria” (from Goldberg Variations) J. S. Bach

WELCOME Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*) Anita Smith-Christopher

Leader: People of God, join the crowd;
don't let the parade pass you by.

People: God loves us ... all of us!

Leader: Bring your whole selves;
leave no part behind.

People: God loves us ... all of us!

Leader: Show the world who you are;
witness to a Love without limits.

People: God loves us ... all of us!

Leader: Join together across differences;
rejoice in the many colors of the rainbow.

People: God loves us ... all of us!

Leader: Worship God in the beauty of this holiness;
we are the family of God!

All: God loves us ... all of us! Amen.

Hopeunited (adapt)

OPENING SONG [ORGAN] (Please stand if able)

In the Midst of New Dimensions

TFWS 2238

1. In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.
2. Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.
3. As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.

4. We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.

5. Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

Anita Smith-Christopher

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON

Love Without Limits

Rev. Israel (Izzy) Alvaran

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]

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

TFWS 2195 (x2)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

CLOSING SONG [ORGAN]

(Please stand if able)

Song of Hope

TFWS 2186 (2x)

May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
Singing, share our joy with all;
Working for a world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

CLOSING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Anita Smith-Christopher

Leader: Beloved, there is only love.

In you, only love.

Around you, only love.

**People: Whoever you are,
whatever beautiful spirit
God created you to be,
shine fearlessly and courageously.**

Leader: We need you
and the divine light within you
to sparkle through the prism of your body
and brighten the world
with a glorious rainbow.

**All: Never forget you are loved.
Fiercely and forever. Amen.**

Rev. Sam Lunquist (adapt)

POSTLUDE [HPD]

"Sonata in G" (K.630)

Domenico Scarlatti