

# 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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*"Respect"*

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November 10, 2024  
Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost  
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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PRELUDE [ORGAN]

Agincourt Hymn

John Dunstable

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Rev. Jojo Gabuya

Leader: God of All of Us,  
we ask you to hover close,  
for we are a divided world.

**People: Bind us as your beloveds, and invite us  
to "do unto others" in ways that build up  
your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.  
We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds,  
and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. Amen.**

Worship Design Studio

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

Many Gifts, One Spirit  
UMH 114

1. God of change and glory,  
God of time and space,  
when we fear the future,  
give to us your grace.  
In the midst of changing ways  
give us still the grace to praise.

Many gifts, one Spirit,  
one love known in many ways.  
In our difference is blessing,  
from diversity we praise one Giver,  
one Lord, one Spirit,  
one Word known in many ways,  
hallowing our days. For the Giver,  
for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

2. God of many colors,  
God of many signs,  
you have made us different,  
blessing many kinds.  
As the old ways disappear,  
let your love cast out our fear.

Many gifts, one Spirit,  
one love known in many ways.  
In our difference is blessing,  
from diversity we praise one Giver,  
one Lord, one Spirit,  
one Word known in many ways,  
hallowing our days. For the Giver,  
for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

3. Freshness of the morning,  
newness of each night,  
you are still creating  
endless love and light.  
This we see, as shadows part,  
many gifts from one great heart.

Many gifts, one Spirit,  
one love known in many ways.  
In our difference is blessing,  
from diversity we praise one Giver,  
one Lord, one Spirit,  
one Word known in many ways,  
hallowing our days. For the Giver,  
for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

## SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 12:1-26 (NRSVue)

Rev. Jojo Gabuya

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were gentiles you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

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

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SERMON

**Respect**

Rev. Mary Elyn Bahlert

RESPONSE

**Christ Has Broken Down the Wall**

Mark A. Miller

W&S 3122

1. Christ has broken down the wall,  
Christ has broken down the wall.  
Let us join our hearts as one,  
Christ has broken down the wall.

2. We're accepted as we are,  
we're accepted as we are.  
Through God's love, all is reconciled,  
we're accepted as we are.

3. Cast aside your doubts and fears,  
cast aside your doubts and fears.  
Peace and love, freely offered here;  
cast aside your doubts and fears.

4. We will tear down the walls!  
We will tear down every wall!  
God has called us, one and all;  
Christ has broken down the wall!

## 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]

(Sung to "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow," UMH 94, 2x)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Help us to work together well,  
off'ring our respect and service now.

Follow Jesus, praise the Spirit,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### CLOSING SONG

In Christ There Is No East or West

(Please stand if able)

UMH 548

1. In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north;  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.
3. In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,  
and neither slave nor free;  
both male and female heirs are made,  
and all are kin to me.

**4. In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north;  
all Christly souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**CLOSING PRAYER** (*RESPONSIVE*)

Rev. Jojo Gabuya

Leader: May the Holy One show you the way  
to Do Unto Others with Respect.

**People: May the Christ whose Light is the Center of All-That-Is  
ground you in the assurance that no one is outside of love.**

Leader: May the Spirit show forth through you  
in extraordinary acts you never imagined you had the power to achieve.

**People: And may you know the peace that surpasses all understanding,  
especially when it is difficult to understand.**

Leader: And the people said,

**People: "Amen!"**

Worship Design Studio

**POSTLUDE** [ORGAN]

**Variations on a Dutch Chorale:  
Let Us Rejoice with Pure Hearts**

John Bull