

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



"Surprise, Surprise!"

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

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

Lulu Sapigao, *Church Administrator*
Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Director
office@lakemerrittumc.org

November 24, 2024
Christ King Sunday
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

We Gather Together

Netherlands Folksong

arr. John Carter

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Jane Sliheet

Leader: We come, for God gathers us here,
with that community called faith:

**People: where the hungry are served first,
where the thirsty drink life's water.**

Leader: We come, for God welcomes us here
into that home called grace:

**People: where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;
where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.**

Leader: We come, for God reunites us here,
sisters and brothers in that family called love:

**People: where the imprisoned model justice,
where the sick are cradled in God's peace.**

All: Let us worship and give thanks together. Amen

Thom Shuman (adapt)

OPENING SONG [ORGAN]

(Please stand if able)

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

UMH 694

1. Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

2. All the world is God's own field,
fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

3. For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offenses purge away,
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25: 31-46 (NIV)

Jane Sliheet

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON

Surprise, Surprise!

Rev. Sunae Cho, Pastor

RESPONSE

Whatever You Do

W&S 3128 vs 1,5

1. “Whatever you do to the least ones of these,
I tell you in truth that you do unto me!”

Lord Jesus, you taught us! May we learn anew
that when we serve others, we also serve you.

5. “Lord, when did we see you?” Your teaching is clear
that when we serve others, we’re serving you here.
And when your church heeds you and helps those in pain,
then out of the chaos, hope rises again.

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]

Give Thanks TFWS 2036 (2x)

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong",
Let the poor say, "I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us."
Give thanks.

CLOSING SONG

(Please stand if able)

Gather Us In

TFWS 2236

1. Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in the lost and forsaken,
gather us in the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
gather us in the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

CLOSING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Jane Sliheet

Leader: Your love, O God,
is an active love:
engaged, involved, immersed.

Your love, O God,
is seen in what is done, not just in what is said.

People: It is expressed through people like us:
as we share our wealth in simplicity and generosity;
as we share wholeness in care of the sick and broken;
as we share hospitality by being truly present
to the lonely and the marginalized;
as we share peace in kindness, listening to and accepting
those who challenge us, confront us and make us uncomfortable.

Leader: Your love, O God, fills us with gratitude.

All: Let us go forth to share God's love with the world. Amen

John van de Laar (adapt)

POSTLUDE [ORGAN]

Praise His Greatness

Rowland Hugh Pritchard
arr. Mark Hayes