

# 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](http://www.lakemerrittumc.org)  
Oakland, CA 94606



*"Witness to God's Grace"*

**Rev. Sunae Cho, *Lead Pastor***  
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**Jim Meredith, *Music Director***  
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***Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director***  
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December 29, 2024  
First Sunday after Christmas  
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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PRELUDE

Amazing Grace

Virginia Harmony 1831  
arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

OPENING PRAYER [RESPONSIVE]

Sherri Elinson

Leader: It is by God's grace that we gather for worship.

**People: It is by God's grace that our lives are changed.**

Leader: We are witnesses to God's grace, today and everyday.

**People: His presence is with us always.**

Leader: His steadfast love endures forever.

**All: For this, we give God thanks and praise. Amen.**

igrc.org (adapt)

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

I Love to Tell the Story

UMH 156

1. I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story,  
'twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

2. I love to tell the story;  
more wonderful it seems  
than all our golden fancies  
of all our golden dreams.  
I love to tell the story,  
it did so much for me;  
and that is just the reason  
I tell it now to thee.

I love to tell the story,  
'twill be my theme in glory,

to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

3. I love to tell the story;  
'tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet.

I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story,  
'twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

4. I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.

And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story  
that I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story,  
'twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 66 (NIV)

Sherri Elinson

Shout for joy to God, all the earth!  
Sing the glory of his name;  
make his praise glorious.  
Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!  
So great is your power  
that your enemies cringe before you.  
All the earth bows down to you;  
they sing praise to you,  
they sing the praises of your name."

Come and see what God has done,  
his awesome deeds for mankind!

He turned the sea into dry land,  
they passed through the waters on foot —  
come, let us rejoice in him.  
He rules forever by his power,  
his eyes watch the nations —  
let not the rebellious rise up against him.

Praise our God, all peoples,  
let the sound of his praise be heard;  
he has preserved our lives  
and kept our feet from slipping.  
For you, God, tested us;  
you refined us like silver.  
You brought us into prison  
and laid burdens on our backs.  
You let people ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and water,  
but you brought us to a place of abundance.

I will come to your temple with burnt offerings  
and fulfill my vows to you —  
vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke  
when I was in trouble.  
I will sacrifice fat animals to you  
and an offering of rams;  
I will offer bulls and goats.

Come and hear, all you who fear God;  
let me tell you what he has done for me.  
I cried out to him with my mouth;  
his praise was on my tongue.  
If I had cherished sin in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened;  
but God has surely listened  
and has heard my prayer.  
Praise be to God,  
who has not rejected my prayer  
or withheld his love from me!

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do  
not see.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE

Joy is the Spirit of Love  
LMUMC Choir

Miki Hughes

WITNESSES TO GRACE

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*  
Laurel Williams, *Lay Leader*  
Jim Meredith  
Dr. Suanu Bere

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]

Come, Thou Almighty King

UMH 61 vs 1,4

1. Come, thou almighty King,  
help us thy name to sing,  
help us to praise!

Father all glorious, o'er all victorious,  
come and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days!

4. To thee, great One in Three,  
eternal praises be,  
hence, evermore.

Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see,  
and to eternity  
love and adore!

CLOSING SONG

Blessed Assurance

(Please stand if able)

UMH 369

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

## CLOSING PRAYER *(RESPONSIVE)*

Sherri Elinson

Leader: May the peace of our God go with you, wherever He may send you.

**People: May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.**

Leader: May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.

**People: May He bring you back rejoicing once again through our doors.**

**All: May you witness God's grace each and every day. Amen.**

scpeanutgallery.com (adapt)

## POSTLUDE

## Amazing Grace

Virginia Harmony 1831

arr. Mark Hayes