

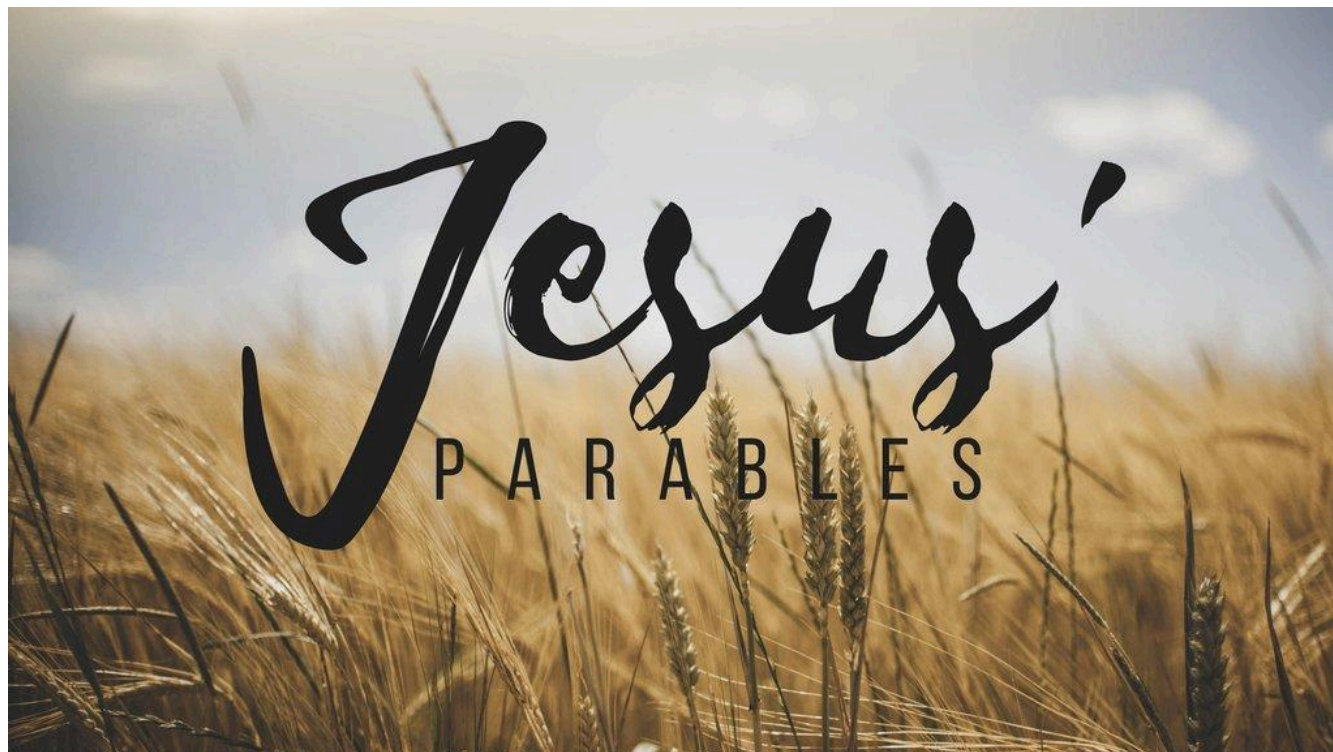
Lake Merritt United Methodist Church



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 Pearl of Great Price

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March 2, 2025
Transfiguration Sunday
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

George N. Allen
arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

Opening Prayer (responsive)

Dan Strauss

Leader: Holy One,
you call us to find your kingdom
already hidden in our world -
in tiny, transforming possibilities;
in beauty that calls us to surrender all;
in complicated choices that call for wisdom.

**All: Reveal yourself here in this moment,
and open our hearts that we may find you
and join you in building this kingdom
of love, and hope, and peace. Amen.**

ucc.org (adapt)

Opening Song (organ)

(Please stand if able)

Seek Ye First
UMH 405 verses 1,2,1

**1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

**2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

**1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

Children's Moment

Margaret LeWright

Scripture

Matthew 13:45-46 (NIV)

Dan Strauss

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

The Pearl of Great Price

Rev. Sunae Cho

Holy Communion

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*
Rev. Myrna Bernadel-Huey

Invitation

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession & Pardon (unison)

All: Merciful God,

**We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
We have broken your law,
We have rebelled against your love,
We have not loved our neighbors,
And we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silence is Kept for Prayers of Confession & Hope

Pastor: Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while you were yet sinners;
That proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
All: Glory to God. Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Let us offer one another signs of peace and love.

The Great Thanksgiving

(please sing along TFWS 2257-a)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity,

made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through the prophet.
And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Please sing along, TFWS 2257-b)

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.
When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
In remembrance of me.”

And so,
In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
As a holy and living sacrifice,
In union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(Please sing along, TFWS 2257-c)

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

(Please sing along, TFWS 2257-d)

All: Amen, Amen, Amen.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

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.

Sharing in the Bread and Cup

Unison Prayer

**All: Generous Lord, in word and eucharist
we have proclaimed the mystery of your love:
help us so to live out our days that we may be
signs of your wonders in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Living as the Church

Offering & Thanksgiving Song

Bless Thou the Gifts

UMH 587 (2x)

**Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought;
bless thou the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;**

the rest, O God, is in thy hand.

Closing Song

(Please stand if able)

Cry of My Heart

TFWS 2165

It is the cry of my heart to follow you.
It is the cry of my heart to be close to you.
It is the cry of my heart to follow
all of the days of my life.

1. Teach me your holy ways, O Lord,
so I can walk in your truth.
Teach me your holy ways, O Lord,
and make me wholly devoted to you.

It is the cry of my heart to follow you.
It is the cry of my heart to be close to you.
It is the cry of my heart to follow
all of the days of my life.

2. Open my eyes so I can see
the wonderful things that You do.
Open my heart up more and more,
and make me wholly devoted to you.

It is the cry of my heart to follow you.
It is the cry of my heart to be close to you.
It is the cry of my heart to follow
all of the days of my life.

Closing Prayer (responsive)

Dan Strauss

Leader: Where should we seek the pearl of great price Lord?

Do we seek it in the depths of our souls
where you pour out your Spirit?
Or in scripture where your words speak to us?
Do we seek it in prayer and hymns or
in the bread and the wine
when you gather us to yourself?

All: We have found you in all these places.

**But the pearl for which we would give
all we have is love, reciprocal and without end:
it enlightens our souls,
it makes our hearts sing,
it gathers us in unity,
and it offers us true wisdom. Amen.**

Rev. Martin Hoegger

Postlude

Old Time Religion/Swing Low Sweet Chariot

Traditional Spirituals
arr. Mark Hayes