

# 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    [www.lakemerrittumc.org](http://www.lakemerrittumc.org)  
1255 First Avenue, Oakland, CA 94606



## **WALKING THE HARD ROAD**

*When Faith is Challenged*

## ***When Our Shelter Is Torn Away***

**Rev. Sunae Cho, *Lead Pastor***  
*[pastor@lakemerrittumc.org](mailto:pastor@lakemerrittumc.org)*

**Jim Meredith, *Music Director***  
*[jimmeredith@mac.com](mailto:jimmeredith@mac.com)*

**Lulu Sapigao, *Church Administrator***  
***Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director***  
*[office@lakemerrittumc.org](mailto:office@lakemerrittumc.org)*

**March 16, 2025**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP**

---

**Prelude**

*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*  
LMUMC Bell Choir

**Welcome**

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

**Opening Prayer** (responsive)

Barbara Ganitch

Leader: God, ever creating, ever loving, ever leading:  
when things around us feel chaotic, you are our peace.

**People: When so much we hear is not reliable, your word is our truth.**

Leader: When we are paralyzed by fear and anxiety, your presence is our freedom.

**People: When we feel bereft and helpless, your love gives us hope.**

Leader: God, you are the Source of all that matters.

**People: We bring you our prayers and our praise this day,  
for you reveal yourself to us in the goodness of creation,  
in the love and mercy of Christ, your beloved,  
and through the energy and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.**

**All: We worship you, O God, now and forever. Amen.**

pccweb (adapt)

**Opening Song** (organ)

(Please stand if able)

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*  
UMH 474

**Precious Lord, take my hand,  
lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
through the storm, through the night,  
lead me on to the light:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear,  
precious Lord linger near,  
when my life is almost gone,  
hear my cry, hear my call,  
hold my hand lest I fall:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When the darkness appears  
and the night draws near,  
and the day is past and gone,  
at the river I stand,  
guide my feet, hold my hand:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**Children's Moment**

Lulu Sapigao

## Scripture

*Luke 13:31-35 (CEB)*

Barbara Ganitch

At that time, some Pharisees approached Jesus and said, “Go! Get away from here, because Herod wants to kill you.”

Jesus said to them, “Go, tell that fox, ‘Look, I’m throwing out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will complete my work. However, it’s necessary for me to travel today, tomorrow, and the next day because it’s impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who were sent to you! How often I have wanted to gather your people just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you didn’t want that. Look, your house is abandoned. I tell you, you won’t see me until the time comes when you say, Blessings on the one who comes in the Lord’s name.”

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

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

## Sermon

*When Our Shelter Is Torn Away*

Rev. Sunae Cho

## Response

*On Eagle’s Wings*

LMUMC Choir

Michael Joncas  
arr. Douglas Wagner

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.**

## Prayers & Gratitudes

***Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,  
those who seek God shall never go wanting.  
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,  
God alone fills us.***

## 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 of Christ

## Living as the Church

## Offering & Thanksgiving Song

*How Shall I Come Before the Lord*

W&S 3124

1. How shall I come before the Lord  
and bow myself with heart outpoured?  
And shall I come with offering?  
What shall I give? What shall I bring?

2. Will finest gifts bring God's delight?  
Will wealth bring favor in God's sight?  
What must we be? What must we do?  
What does the Lord require of you?

3. Let Justice shine in all your ways.  
Let loving kindness rule you days,  
that, as this earthly path you trod,  
you shall walk humbly with your God.

**Closing Song**

(Please stand if able)

*Guide My Feet*

TFWS 2208

1. Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

2. Hold my hand while I run this race.  
Hold my hand while I run this race.  
Hold my hand while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

3. Stand by me while I run this race.  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

4. I'm your child while I run this race.  
I'm your child while I run this race.  
I'm your child while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

5. Search my heart while I run this race.  
Search my heart while I run this race.  
Search my heart while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

6. Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

## **Closing Prayer** (responsive)

Barbara Ganitch

Leader: Gracious God, we lay before you now  
the times when, in seeking our own safety,  
we have made a place unsafe for others.

**People: We confess to resisting your message  
of welcome and shelter  
when it threatens our status quo.**

**All: We ask you to gather us up again,  
and tenderly show us how wide your world is,  
wide enough for all your creatures  
to find a place called home. Amen.**

Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett

## **Postlude**

*Poor Wayfaring Stranger*

Traditional Spiritual  
arr. Mark Hayes