



An inclusive Christian Community
feeding the spiritual and physical hunger of Oakland.

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The Widow and the Judge

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May 11, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Easter
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Children's Song Melody

arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

Opening Prayer (responsive)

Fran Cooper

Leader: We worship because the Lord stands by us on difficult days.

People: Even when we aren't aware and feel alone.

Leader: We worship because the Lord gives us strength.

People: Even when we feel weak.

Leader: We worship because we are being rescued again and again.

People: Even when we are afraid that we are lost.

Leader: Come and worship the God who stands with us in our darkest days and promises to be with us to the end.

**All: We will worship in hope, seeking eyes to see
and hearts to believe in God with us. Amen.**

Derek Weber (adapt)

Opening Song

(Please stand if able)

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

TFWS 2193 3x

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Children's Moment

Margaret LeWright

Scripture

Luke 18:1-8 (NIV)

Fran Cooper

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'"

"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

The Widow and the Judge

Rev. Mary Elyn Bahlert

Prayers & Gratitudes

Lord Jesus Christ

***Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love.***

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 (organ)

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.**

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

UMH 404

Every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.

**1. Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke,
out his mouth came fire and smoke.
All around me looks so shine,
ask my Lord if all was mine.**

Every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.

**2. Jordon river runs right cold,
chills the body, not the soul.
Ain't but one train on this track,
runs to heaven and right back.**

Every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.

Closing Prayer (responsive)

Fran Cooper

Leader: God of Justice,
we know that in this hard world there are judges
that neither fear God nor respect their fellow men.
But you call us to remember
the woman who gave one a hard time,
crying out to him day and night,
until he changed his mind –
because of her sheer stubbornness.

**People: And we celebrate all those, women and men,
who persist in the cause of right;
who will not keep quiet;
who insist on raising the issues, again and again;
who campaign for unpopular causes,
write letters, send emails, sign petitions:
people round the world
who pick up their pens or take to the streets -
and young girls determined to go to school.**

**All: We celebrate them: steadfast, down-to-earth,
blessed with both stubbornness and courage,
working to change the world. Amen.**

Jan Sutch Pickard (adapt)

Postlude

Every Time I Feel The Spirit

Traditional Spiritual