LAKE MERRITT
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHRIST COMMUNITY CAUSE

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

(510) 465-4793 www.lakemerrittumc.org
1255 First Avenue, Oakland, CA 94606

Pentecost People
Embodying The Love of God
A Table Open To All

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

Jim Meredith, Music Director
jimmeredith@mac.com

Horacio Cervantez, Church Administrator
office@lakemerrittumc.org

August 3, 2025
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* Anonymous
arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome Laurel Williams

Opening Prayer (responsive) Dan Strauss
Leader: The table of God's love is set before us.
People: Let us come to the banquet.
Leader: The table of God's grace is set before us.
People: Let us come to the banquet.
Leader: The table of God's salvation is set before us.
People: Let us come to the banquet.
Leader: But before you come, you must know–all are invited to the table:
People: the rich and the poor
the old and the young
the conservative and the liberal
the gracious and the greedy.
Leader: All are invited.
The table of God's hospitality is set before us.
All: Let us come to the banquet with joy. Amen

SpaciousFaith.com

Opening Song (organ) (Please stand if able)

One Bread. One Body
UMH 620

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many through-out the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many through-out the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

2. Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many through-out the earth,

we are one body in this one Lord.

3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many through-out the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Children's Moment

LMUMC Children's Choir

Reading

Dan Strauss

Come, sinners, to the gospel-feast,
Let every soul be Jesus's guest,
You need not one be left behind,
For God hath bidden all mankind.

Sent by my Lord, on you I call,
The invitation is to all.
Come all the world: come, sinner, thou,
All things in Christ are ready now.

Jesus to you his fullness brings,
A feast of marrow, and fat things:
All, all in Christ is freely given,
Pardon, and holiness, and heaven.

Yet must I, Lord, to thee complain,
The world hath made thy offers vain,
Too busy, or too happy they,
They will not, Lord, thy call obey.

Go then, my angry Master said,
Since these on all my mercies tread,
Invite the rich and great no more,
But preach my gospel to the poor.

Confer not thou with flesh and blood,
Go quickly forth, invite the crowd,
Search every lane, and every street,
And bring in all the souls you meet.

Come then ye souls, by sin oppressed,
Ye restless wanderers after rest,
Ye poor, and maim'd, and halt, and blind,
In Christ a hearty welcome find.

Charles Wesley

Sermon ***Embodying The Love of God***
A Table Open To All

Luke 14:7-24

Bishop Delores J. Williamston

Reflection Questions

1) What does it mean to embody the invitation and welcome of God?

2) Who would not feel welcome at Holy Communion or at a fifth Sunday potluck/fellowship gathering?

3) What needs to happen to make your communion and fifth Sunday potluck/fellowship gathering a welcoming place for all?

4) How shall we tell others of God's invitation?

5) How can we compel others to come?

Holy Communion

Rev. Myrna Bernadel-Huey

Invitation

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
Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Pastor: 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 (organ)

Sweet, Sweet Spirit
UMH 334

There's a sweet sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know that it's the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us,
filling us with your love;
and for these blessings
we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know
that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

Closing Song (organ) (Please stand if able)

You Feed Us Gentle Savior
W&S 3169

1. You feed us, gentle Savior, the bread that makes us whole,
the wine of your compassion poured out into our soul.
The food of your own presence, your Spirit, strong, within,
the grace that heals us deeply and overcomes our sin.

2. You bind us, gentle Savior, and weave us into one,
one flesh and blood made holy, the Body of your Son.
We gather here in hunger, one hunger, all the same;
and with one grace you bless us together in his name.

3. You call us, gentle Savior, and send us in your name.
You teach and heal and show us how we can do the same.
So, strengthened by your Spirit and nourished by your grace,
we go to be your presence in love, in every place.

Closing Prayer (responsive) Dan Strauss

Leader: We are made for goodness.
People: We are made for love.
Leader: We are made for friendliness.
People: We are made for togetherness.
Leader: We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know.
People: We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders.
Leader: All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor,
educated, not educated, male, female, gay, straight,
all, all, all.
All: We all belong to this family, this human family, God's family. Amen

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Postlude *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

Traditional Spiritual