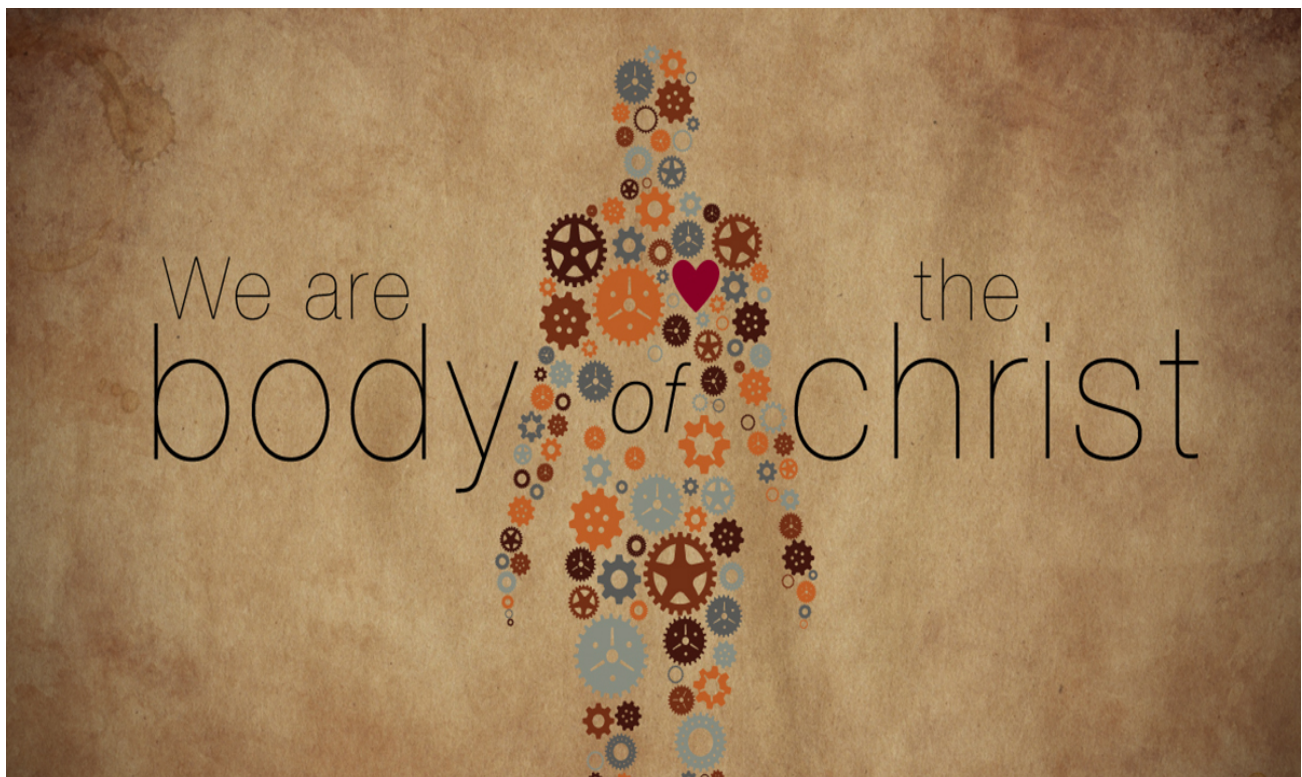




An Inclusive Christian Community
feeding the spiritual and physical hunger of Oakland.

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One Body, Many Parts Embracing the Power of Diversity

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September 21, 2025
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Together We Serve

LMUMC Bell Choir

Welcome

Pastor Sunae

Opening Prayer (responsive)

Fran Cooper

Leader: Gathered in this place.

People: We are the body of Christ.

Leader: The hands and feet,

People: The eyes and ears,

Leader: The heart and lungs,

People: All parts of the whole,

Leader: Participating in this miraculous body.

People: Together we are a body that worships,

Leader: A body that sings,

People: A body that works,

Leader: A body that rests,

**People: A body that rejoices in the wonder
of serving and loving God together.**

All: We are the body of Christ, gathered in this place.

Thanks be to God! Amen

Joanna Harader

Opening Song

(Please stand if able)

We Are the Church

UMH 558 vs 1,2,5

I am the church! You are the church!

We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus,

all around the world!

Yes, we're the church together!

**1. The church is not a building,
the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place,
the church is a people.**

I am the church!

You are the church!

We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus,

all around the world!

Yes, we're the church together!

2. We're many kinds of people,
with many kinds of faces,
all colors and all ages, too,
from all times and places.

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

5. At Pentecost some people
received the Holy Spirit
and told the Good News through
the world to all who would hear it.

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

Children's Moment

Margaret LeWright

Response

Something Beautiful

Gloria and William Gaither
arr. Bruce Purdy
LMUMC Choir

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (NIV)

Fran Cooper

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body,
so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit
so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—
and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,"
it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.
And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,"
it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.
If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be?
If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?
But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them,
just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be?
As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!"
And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"
On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,
and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.
And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,
while our presentable parts need no special treatment.
But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it,
so that there should be no division in the body,
but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.
If one part suffers, every part suffers with it;
if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

One Body, Many Parts: Embracing the Power of Diversity

Bishop Louie Muvunyi

Prayers & Gratitudes

Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)

Dona nobis pacem, pacem.
Dona nobis pacem.

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

Let us offer one another signs of peace and love.

Living As the Church

Offering & Thanksgiving

Many Gifts, One Spirit

UMH 114

God of change and glory, God of time and space,
When we fear the future, give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.

Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
one Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word
known in many ways, hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

Closing Song

(Please stand if able)

We Are Marching

TFWS 2235-b

- 1. We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching,
we are marching in the light of God.**
- 2. We are singing in the light of God,
we are singing in the light of God.
We are singing in the light of God,
we are singing in the light of God.
We are singing, we are singing,
we are singing in the light of God.**
- 3. We are praying in the light of God,
we are praying in the light of God.
We are praying in the light of God,
we are praying in the light of God.
We are praying, we are praying,
we are praying in the light of God.**
- 4. We are dancing in the light of God,
we are dancing in the light of God.
We are dancing in the light of God,
we are dancing in the light of God.
We are dancing, we are dancing,
we are dancing in the light of God.**

Closing Prayer (responsive)

Fran Cooper

Leader: Christ has no body but yours,
no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

**People: Ours are the eyes with which He looks
with compassion onto this world.**

**Ours are the feet with which He walks to do good,
Ours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.**

**All: Ours are the hands, ours are the feet,
ours are the eyes, we are His body.**

We are the body of Christ, and each one of us is a part of it. Amen

Teresa of Avila (adapt)

Postlude

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Jamaican Folk Tune
adapted by Doreen Potter
arr. John Carter