LAKE MERRITT
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHRIST COMMUNITY CAUSE

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

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Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday

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November 23, 2025
Thanksgiving Sunday
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Changed Mah Name Jennifer Bynum Green

Ah tol' Jesus it would be all right
if he changed mah name.
Ah tol' Jesus it would be all right
if he changed mah name.
Ah tol' Jesus it would be all right,
if he changed mah name.

Jesus tol' me ah would have to live humble
if he changed mah name.
Jesus tol' me ah would have to live humble
if he changed mah name.
Jesus tol' me ah would have to live humble,
if he changed mah name.

Jesus tol' me that the world would be 'gainst me
if he changed mah name.
Jesus tol' me that the world would be 'gainst me
if he changed mah name.
Jesus tol' me that the world would be 'gainst me,
if he changed mah name.

But ah tol' Jesus it would be all right
if he changed mah name.
But ah tol' Jesus it would be all right
if he changed mah name.
But ah tol' Jesus it would be all right,
if he changed mah name.

Welcome

Pastor Sunae

Opening Prayer (responsive)

Bonnie Church

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the wondrous gifts that God has given us.
People: Throughout all our lives, God has blessed us with love and hope.

Leader: Praise be to God who provides for us.
People: May our hearts be truly grateful, and may we show our gratitude by the ways in which we live and care for others.

All: Hallelujah! Amen

Opening Song

(Please stand if able)

Give Me Jesus

W&S 3140

1. In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus,
give me Jesus,
you may have all this world,
give me Jesus.

2. I heard my mother say,
I heard my mother say,
I heard my mother say,
give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus,
give me Jesus,
you may have all this world,
give me Jesus.

3. Dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus,
give me Jesus,
you may have all this world,
give me Jesus.

4. Oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus,
give me Jesus,
you may have all this world,
give me Jesus.

Children's Moment

Margaret LeWright

Scripture

Colossians 1:11-20 (NIV)

Bonnie Church

...being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Luke 23:33-38 (NIV)

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

There was a written notice above him, which read: "This is the King of the Jews".

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon ***Like Jesus*** Rev. Renae Extrum-Fernandez

Response ***Woke Up Dis Mornin*** *Dan Strauss*

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 (organ)

(Please stand if able)

Here I am, Lord
UMH 593

**1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.**

**All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Closing Prayer (responsive) Bonnie Church

Leader: May the Lord bless you and hold you close,
May the Lord fill your heart with an overwhelming sense of peace and an abundance of gratitude.
May you rest in the assurance that God loves you completely, uniquely, and beyond measure.

People: May we step into the fullness of God's love for us,
may God's love kindle within us a yearning
to reach out to those who need us,
whose beloved faces we can picture in our mind's eye,
as well as the strangers whom we haven't yet met.
May we work for justice, cling to kindness,
and walk humbly with Christ in our midst.

Leader: May you live for one another and for God like never before, with open hands, minds, and hearts,

not just during the short days of this Thanksgiving season, but for each and every day to come.

All: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Katy Shevel

Postlude *We Gather Together* *Netherlands Folk Song*
arr. John Carter