



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

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Reset Direction

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Adapted from UMC of Greater New Jersey

February 01, 2026
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude (organ) *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* Ludwig van Beethoven
arr. Robert A. Hobby

Welcome Pastor Sunae

Opening Prayer (responsive) Dr. George Han

Leader: We come, so sure of the way of faith, and the ways of faith...

People: So sure of the way, we do not expect surprises.

Leader: God of the road, you step into our path and startle us!

People: So sure of the way, we are stopped in our tracks...

Leader: Surprise us, nudge us, redirect our steps.

All: So sure of the way, Lord, awaken us to new possibilities. Amen

Opening Song (organ) (Please stand if able)

This is a Day of New Beginnings
UMH 383

- 1. This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.**
- 2. For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.**
- 3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
Step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.**
- 4. Christ is alive, and goes before us,
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.**
- 5. In faith we'll gather round the table,
To taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.**

Scripture*Acts 9:1-15 (NIV)*

Dr. George Han

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel."

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response***Simple Gifts***

Shaker Melody
arr. Mark Hayes
Oliver Gameros, baritone

Sermon***Reset Direction***

Rev. Jeff Kunkel

Holy Communion

Rev. Sunae Cho

Invitation

Rev. Sunae Cho

Pastor: We gather at the table of the Lord, a place where mercies are abundant and new.

Christ invites all who seek a new way, to turn and follow him.

People: We come with our lives, our stories, and our journeys.

Pastor: In Christ, the old is gone, the new has come!

God, who reconciles us to himself, calls us to a new beginning.

Confession & Pardon

Pastor: Forgiving God, we confess that we often cling to the old, comfortable paths and resist the new direction you call us to take.

We are sorry when the cost seems too high or the direction too confusing.

People: Lord, grant us clarity of vision to see the light, and the strength to walk behind you in the power of your Spirit.

Silence Is Kept For Prayers Of Confession

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made a new creation.

God takes our faces in his hands and says,

"I am on your side. You are at home with me".

People: Thanks be to God!

Passing the Peace of Christ

Let us offer one another signs of peace and love.

The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Stephanie Gameros

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 indeed right and our joy to give you thanks,

Eternal God, for you are always doing a new thing.

You sent Jesus, who healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

He proclaimed recovery of direction to those who had lost their way.

On the night he was betrayed
he sat with his friends.

He took bread, blessed and broke it,
served it to them, and said:
"Take this. Eat it. It is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me."

In the same way, he took the cup,
blessed it, served it to them, and said,
"Drink from this, every one of you.
This is my blood poured out for you
and for many in forgiveness of sin.
Do this to remember me."

And so we remember.
We offer our praise and thanks and our very selves
as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us.
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.

Pastor: We ask that you transform us, O Lord,
that we may be nourished by this spiritual food
and empowered to share your life and love with others.
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sharing In The Bread And Cup

Rev. Sunae Cho

Unison Prayer

Rev. Sunae Cho

**Eternal God, you have fed us with spiritual food in this sacrament.
Send us into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage
to follow you in new directions with gladness and singleness of heart.
May God's grace, love, and relentless companionship encompass us always.
May we go into the world to love and serve the Lord,
walking the new path He has set before us.
Thanks be to God. Amen**

Living as the Church

Offering & Thanksgiving

Rule of Life

W&S 2117 (2x)

Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.

Closing Song (organ)

(Please stand if able)

In the Midst of New Dimensions

TFWS 2238 vs 1,2,3

**1. In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?**

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.**

**2. Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?**

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.**

**3. As we stand a world divided by our own self seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.**

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.**

Closing Prayer (responsive)

Dr. George Han

Leader: God of grace and glory,
today we were in need of an alignment that only you can give.

**People: Open our hearts and minds to receive all that you have offered us
so we may make a difference in this world.**

Leader: Transform our souls to grow more into your image
so that others may see you in us.

People: Accept our brokenness and make us whole again.

Reset, restore and direct us.

All: These things we pray in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Postlude (organ)

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

Charles Villiers Stanford