



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

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Confessing

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April 19, 2026
Third Sunday of Easter
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Softly and Tenderly

Will Thompson
arr. Joel Raney

Welcome

Pastor Sunae

Opening Prayer (responsive)

Sue Dickey

Leader: God, you are made known to us in the rustling wind that blows,
in the blazing fire that does not consume,
in the face of the good,
in the deep of the unknown.

People: We meet you here.

We accept your greeting.

We welcome your inspiration.

We await the change you have in store for us.

Leader: Draw us in to you.

Inhabit our spirits.

Focus our attention.

Bring us to you – you who are already with us.

Help us to be as you would have us be.

All: Through Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

here and everywhere, now and always. Amen.

UCC.org

Opening Song

(Please stand if able)

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling
UMH 348 vs 1,2,4

**1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.**

**Come home, come home;
you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!**

**2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?**

**Come home, come home;
you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!**

**4. O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.**

**Come home, come home;
you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!**

Children's Moment

Margaret LeWright

Scripture

Matthew 16:13-20 (The Message)

Sue Dickey

When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

He pressed them, "And how about you? Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter said, "You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus came back, "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I'm going to tell you who you are, really are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out. And that's not all. You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven."

He swore the disciples to secrecy. He made them promise they would tell no one that he was the Messiah.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

Confessing

Pastor Sunae

Response

Way Maker

Written by Sinach (Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu)

Sung by Leeland

Prayers & Gratitudes

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

TFWS 2200

O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

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

Spirit Song

UMH 347 vs 1

1. O let the Son of God enfold you
with his spirit and his love.
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
O let him have the things that hold you,
and his Spirit like a dove
will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Jesus, O Jesus,
come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus,
come and fill your lambs.

Closing Song

(Please stand if able)

Go, Make of All Disciples

UMH 571

1. "Go, make of all disciples." We hear the call, O Lord,
that comes from thee, our Father, in thy eternal Word.
Inspire our ways of learning through earnest, fervent prayer,
and let our daily living reveal thee everywhere.

2. "Go, make of all disciples." baptizing in the name
of Father, Son, and Spirit, from age to age the same.
We call each new disciple to follow thee, O Lord,
redeeming soul and body by water and the Word.

3. "Go, make of all disciples." We at thy feet would stay
until each life's vocation accents thy holy way.
We cultivate the nature God plants in every heart,
revealing in our witness the master teacher's art.

4. "Go, make of all disciples." We welcome thy command.
"Lo, I am with you always." We take thy guiding hand.
The task looms large before us; we follow without fear;
in heaven and earth thy power shall bring God's kingdom here.

Closing Prayer (responsive)

Sue Dickey

Leader: God, we look for you in all the wrong places,
and wonder why we cannot find you.

**People: We wander the corridors of power,
while you are on the sidewalks,
beside the homeless.**

Leader: We sit at the head tables of the world,
while you are handing out soup to the hungry
at the kitchen's backdoor.

**People: We applaud those who win the race,
while you are cheering on those in last place.**

Leader: As your disciples,
you transform our cold hearts
into those melted in service to others.

**People: As your disciples,
you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored.**

**All: As your disciples,
you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ,
as the hope, the joy, and the peace the world seeks. Amen**

Thom Shuman (adapted)

Postlude

Like a River Glorious

James Mountain
arr. Bob Walters