



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

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1255 First Avenue, Oakland, CA 94606

Healing the World

The 178th California-Nevada Annual Conference Session

June 26 - 29, 2026

Isaiah 58:12



Annual Conference Report

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July 05, 2026
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude

America the Beautiful

Samuel A. Ward
arr. Calvin Taylor

Welcome

Tom Huetteman

Opening Prayer (responsive)

Margaret LeWright

Leader: We are children of God:

**People: called to praise, and to bless,
and to show mercy.**

Leader: We are citizens of the world:

**People: called to care, to heal,
and to share our freedom.**

Leader: We are members of a community:

**People: called to know each other,
and to accept each other,
and to welcome all.**

All: We belong to God, and through God, to one another.

So may our hearts be as one, and let us worship our God. Amen

Beth Merrill Neel (adapt)

Opening Song (organ)

(Please stand if able)

This Is My Song
UMH 437

**1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.**

3. This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations;
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

Children's Moment

Margaret LeWright

Scripture

Isaiah 58:9-12 (The Message)

Margaret LeWright

"If you get rid of unfair practices,
quit blaming victims,
quit gossiping about other people's sins,

If you are generous with the hungry
and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,

Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness,
your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.

I will always show you where to go.
I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—
firm muscles, strong bones.

You'll be like a well-watered garden,
a gurgling spring that never runs dry.

You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew,
rebuild the foundations from out of your past.

You'll be known as those who can fix anything,
restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate,
make the community livable again.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Sermon

Annual Conference Report

Laurel Williams
Marlene Yamashita

Holy Communion

(adapted from Sacredise, Ministry Matters, Rev. Shannon E. Sullivan)

Rev. Myrna Bernadel-Huey

Invitation

Pastor: Jesus came to seek the lost,
heal the sick, and restore the broken.
He invites us to this table not just to be fed,
but to be empowered as healers in a fractured world.

**All: We come to be made whole,
that we might bring wholeness to others.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Let us offer one another signs of peace and love.

Confession & Pardon

Pastor: God of mercy, your love has never been far from us.
Even when we turn our backs on people in need,
when we seek our own comfort,
when we neglect opportunities to help others,
when we, by our thoughts and actions, betray you,
you are always with us.

**All: Forgive us for all those acts of cowardice
and self centeredness that have drawn us away from you.
Heal our spirits and rebuild our lives.
You have placed us in a global community
in which illness, oppression, greed, fear, and anger abound.
You ask us to proclaim your words of hope and love,
of healing mercy for all your people.
Place us again on the path of peace for all your children.
We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Silence Is Kept For Prayers Of Confession

Pastor: Hear the good news friends! While we wandered in fear,
God was with us, offering us hope and courage.
God is with you this day, this very minute,
lifting you from despair to hope. This is the good news!
God is always with us!
And now with the confidence of children of God,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

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, Creating God, even in the midst of the chaos and unrest around the world.

You formed us, breathing life into us.
When we got ourselves into that situation in the garden,
you clothed us and watched over us,
as we went out to make our own way.
Your love kept calling us back to you,
and sometimes we heard it.
When we stepped into freedom after bondage in Egypt,
we were following your love.
Even in the midst of famines and illness, injustice and unrest,
you continued to create, by speaking love into our hearts
through prophets and teachers, priests and widows.

And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

All: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Pastor: We praise you for speaking love
into and through Jesus Christ.

He knew what it was like to grow up in turbulent times.

He grew up under the violence of Roman occupation.

He grew up impoverished,

his family and neighbors knowing the pain of poverty.
His heart was open to see the way we use religion,
not to nourish and strengthen but to cut down and cover up.
And even though the suffering of the world
seemed insurmountable then, just as it does today,
Jesus proclaimed the coming of a world
defined entirely by love.
He poured your love over us
through healing the sick and eating with sinners,
and he challenged us to love
one another and ourselves as you love us all.

Around the world our tables look different,
but your table is always one defined by love.
Jesus knew some of his friends
would betray him, deny him, and abandon him.
And he nourished them anyway,
just as you nourish all of us.

You gave yourself to us in Jesus,
pouring love over us, filling us with grace.
You took bread and said:
"This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

You took drink from the vine and said:
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

The disciples did not understand.
We may not understand.
But we remember.
May our remembering connect us to you and one another.
So let us proclaim this mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Spirit on us gathered here
and on these gifts of bread and cup,
pointing us toward that day when we who are many
will partake of one loaf and one cup.
Breathe life and love into us and knit us together.
Make these gifts for us be the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for this broken world
the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.
Through communion this morning
may you nourish us to minister with all the world
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through you child Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours,
almighty God, now and forever. Amen

Sharing In The Bread And Cup/Invitation To Prayer Stations

Unison Prayer

**All: Behold: we have experienced a mystery!
Ordinary bread and ordinary fruit
become for us nourishing life,
that can transform even the grief and fear
of these times into hope and love.
May it be so, not just in this meal but each meal.
And may we who have been fed go forth to feed others. Amen**

Living as the Church

Offering & Thanksgiving

***Bless Thou the Gifts
UMH 587 (2x)***

***Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought;
bless thou the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in thy hand.***

Closing Song

(Please stand if able)

**Let There Be Peace on Earth
UMH 431**

Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator,
children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me;
let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment
and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let here be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.

Closing Prayer (responsive)

Margaret LeWright

Leader: Go forth into the world in peace,
bearing the light of healing to all you encounter.

**People: May we bring hope to the weary,
comfort to the brokenhearted,
and love where there is despair.**

**May we be instruments of restoration,
mending the wounds of our communities and our planet.**

**All: Go with courage, and may the Divine presence
guide our hands to heal and our hearts to love. Amen.**

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Postlude

My Country 'Tis of Thee

Thomas Arne
arr. Calvin Taylor