



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

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Hidden Treasure, Wild Growth

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July 26, 2026
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Lowell Mason
arr. Judy East Wells

Welcome

Sue Dickey

Opening Prayer (responsive)

Rose Lynn Abesamis-Bell

Leader: The kingdom of heaven is near - hidden, growing, alive.

People: Open our hearts to your surprising grace.

Leader: Christ invites us to seek what truly matters.

People: Help us treasure what you treasure.

Leader: God gathers us with love and wisdom.

People: We worship with wonder and joy. Amen

Opening Song

(Please stand if able)

Seek Ye First
UMH 405

**1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

**2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

Children's Moment

Margaret LeWright

Scripture

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (CEB)

Rose Lynn Abesamis-Bell

He told another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. It's the smallest of all seeds. But when it's grown, it's the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches.

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through all the dough."

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that somebody hid in a field, which someone else found and covered up. Full of joy, the finder sold everything and bought that field

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. When he found one very precious pearl, he went and sold all that he owned and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that people threw into the lake and gathered all kinds of fish. When it was full, they pulled it to the shore, where they sat down and put the good fish together into containers. But the bad fish they threw away. That's the way it will be at the end of the present age. The angels will go out and separate the evil people from the righteous people, and will throw the evil ones into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth

"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. They said to him, "Yes."

Then he said to them, "Therefore, every legal expert who has been trained as a disciple for the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings old and new things out of their treasure chest."

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Sermon

Hidden Treasure, Wild Growth

Rev. Jeff Kunkel

Prayers & Gratitudes

Kum Ba Yah (Come By Here)

UMH 494 vs 1,2

**1. Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah.
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah.
Kum by yah, my Lord, kum ba yah.
Oh, Lord, kum ba yah!**

**2. Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah.
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah.
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah.
Oh, Lord, kum ba yah!**

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

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

UMH 334

There's a sweet sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit Sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us,
filling us with your love;
and for these blessings
we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know
that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

Closing Song

(Please stand if able)

Bring Forth the Kingdom

TFWS 2190

1. You are salt for the earth, O people,
Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the Kingdom of God!

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the Kingdom of peace.
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
bring forth the Kingdom of God!

2. You are a light on the hill, O people,
Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the Kingdom of God!

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the Kingdom of peace.
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
bring forth the Kingdom of God!

**3. You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
grow in the Kingdom of God!**

**Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the Kingdom of peace.
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
bring forth the Kingdom of God!**

**4. We are a blest and a pilgrim people,
Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
Love is the Kingdom of God!**

**Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the Kingdom of peace.
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
bring forth the Kingdom of God!**

Closing Prayer (responsive)

Rose Lynn Abesamis-Bell

Leader: Holy One,
you have called us to find your kin-dom
already hidden in our world -
in tiny, transforming possibilities;
in beauty that calls us to surrender all;
in complicated choices that call for wisdom.

**People: Reveal yourself as we go forth
and heighten our senses that we may find you
and join you in building this kin-dom
of love, and hope, and peace.**

**All: In the name of the One who calls us to seek,
Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

ucc.org (adapt)

Postlude

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

William Croft
arr. Judy East Wells