



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

(510) 465-4793 www.lakemerrittumc.org
1255 First Avenue, Oakland, CA 94606



Pride Sunday

Rev. Sunae Cho, Lead Pastor
pastor@lakemerrittumc.org

Jim Meredith, Music Director
jimmeredith@mac.com

Sean Hyland, Church Operations Manager
office@lakemerrittumc.org

August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude (organ)

What Wondrous Love Is This

W. Walter
Southern Harmony, 1835
setting by David Sherwien

Welcome

George Han

Opening Prayer (responsive)

Dan Strauss

Leader: Beloved community, let us draw the circle wide!

People: And draw it wider still.

Leader: Each of us is here because something draws us to the Divine.

**People: We come to explore what it is that draws us here,
in community with neighbors who can teach us
what it is that draws them here.**

Leader: We come with questions, struggles, doubts.

People: We come with unique perspectives that enrich the whole community.

Leader: We come in vast diversity of mind, body, being,
to live into a unity that does not quell our differences, but celebrates them.

**People: We come to abide in the love of Jesus,
and to learn to bear good fruit that lasts.**

**All: Come, let us join in worship of the God of love
who teaches us what true love is. Amen**

binarybreakingworship.com

Opening Song (organ)

(Please stand if able)

Draw the Circle Wide
W&S 3154

**Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

**Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

Children's Moment

Margaret LeWright
Ryan Gilley

Scripture

Acts 8:26-40 (NIV)

Dan Strauss

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Response

I Wanna Thank You, Lord

Patty Ford Simms
Lake Merritt UMC Choir

Sermon

Expanding Our Horizons

Rev. Ken Schoon, Deacon

Prayers & Gratitudes (organ)

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

TFWS 2193 (3x)

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

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 (organ)

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 (organ)

(Please stand if able)

Sing A New World Into Being

vs 1,2 4

(sung to UMH 89 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee)

Words by Mary Louise Bringle from Songs For The Holy Other

1. Sing a new world into being. Sound a bold and hopeful theme.
Find a tune for silent yearnings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being. Sing as Christ inspires your song!
2. Sing a new world into being where each gender, class, and race
brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace;
where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.
Sing a new world into being: risk transforming heart and mind!
4. Sing a new world into being. Join the ancient prophets; cry
for a time of health and plenty when all tears have been wiped dry;
when compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve.
Sing a new world into being: live the promise you believe!

Closing Prayer (responsive)

Dan Strauss

Leader: Friends in Christ,
in worshipping the God who loves us,
we have been reminded
of the goodness of our diversity
joining together in one Body.

People: Gratitude is our response:
gratitude for the God who chose us, who abides in us,
and who goes out with us now
to bring love, justice, and peace into a hungry world.
All: So let us go, glorifying God with our lives! Amen

binarybreakingworship.com (adapt)

Postlude (organ)

Toccata Giocosa

Gilbert M. Martin