



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

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



Rediscovering Jesus as Teacher

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

Jim Meredith, Music Director
jimmeredith@mac.com

Sean Hyland, Church Operations Manager
office@lakemerrittumc.org

September 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude

In the Garden

C. Austin Miles
setting by Calvin Taylor

Welcome

Pastor Sunae

Opening Prayer (responsive)

Patty Staggs

Leader: Jesus, our Teacher and Lord,
you taught with authority and transformed lives.

**People: We come to sit at your feet
and listen to your voice.**

Leader: You showed us the Father's love
and revealed the truth of God's Kingdom.

**People: Open our hearts to your wisdom,
that we might walk in your ways.**

Leader: You call us beyond simply knowing, to doing and loving.

**All: Let us worship the Master Teacher,
who guides us from beginning to end. Amen**

Weapons of Grace

Opening Song

(Please stand if able)

In the Garden

UMH 314

**1. I come to the garden alone
while the dew is still on the roses,
and the voice I hear falling on my ear,
the Son of God discloses.**

**And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.**

**2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
and the melody that he gave to me
within my heart is ringing.**

**And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.**

3. I'd stay in the garden with him
though the night around me be falling,
but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe
his voice to me is calling.

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.

Children's Moment

Margaret LeWright

Scripture

Matthew 5:1-12 (NIV)

Patty Staggs

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

John 13:13 (NIV)

Patty Staggs

You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.

Leader: May God bless the reading of this Holy Word.

All: Amen.

Prayers & Gratitudes

Jesus Remember Me UMH 488 (3x)

Jesus, remember me
when you come
into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come
into your kingdom.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Sunae

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

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful TFWS 2195 (2x)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Closing Song

(Please stand if able)

O Master Let Me Walk With Thee UMH 430

1. O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2. Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

3. Teach me thy patience; still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.

4. In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

Closing Prayer (responsive)

Patty Staggs

Leader: Teacher, Rabbi, Storyteller, Sage,
you come bearing good news of God's
beautiful, diverse, upside-down, inclusive kin-dom.

**All: Rather than merely hearing and affirming your message,
may we be transformed by it
and empowered to live boldly as your disciples. Amen.**

AI

Postlude

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Thomas J. Williams
arr. Larry Shackley

Thank you to Ellen St. Thomas for sharing her musical gifts with us today.