LAKE MERRITT
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHRIST COMMUNITY CAUSE

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

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World Communion Sunday

Rev. Sunae Cho, Lead Pastor
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October 4, 2026
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Charles C. Converse
arr. Glenda Austin

Welcome Rev. Sunae Cho, Lead Pastor

Opening Prayer (responsive) Ron Fujie

Leader: We come to worship because we belong to something greater.
People: Everyone is included, everyone is needed.
Leader: We come to worship because we belong to something greater.
People: We all have our own gifts to offer, to love God and neighbor.
Leader: We come to worship because we belong to something greater.
People: God has put us together. We belong in the body of Christ.
All: Let us worship our Savior and redeeming God. Amen

First UMC of Allen (adapt)

Opening Song (Please stand if able)

One Bread, One Body
UMH 620

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many through-out the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many through-out the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

2. Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many through-out the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many through-out the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Children's Moment

LMUMC Children's Choir

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world in his hands
She's got the little bitty baby in her hands
God's got everybody here in his hands

Scripture

Matthew 21:33-46 (NIV)

Ron Fujie

"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. 34 When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

"The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent more servants to them than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.

"But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance." So they took him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

"Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

"He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"'The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

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

Sermon Trouble in the Vineyard Rev. Jeff Kunkel

Holy Communion

(adapted from Spacious Faith and United Methodist Communion Liturgy) Rev. Sunae Cho, Lead Pastor
Rev. Stephanie Gameros, Deacon

Invitation

Rev. Sunae Cho

Pastor: We gather around the Table in places far and near,
eating sourdough, rye, tortillas, crackers,
wafers, and Wonderbread -
All: The body of Christ.
Pastor: Drinking the wine or the juice,
from handmade chalices and silver goblets,
golden spoons and little mini cups–
All: The blood of Christ.
Pastor: The bread and the cup unite us with all who would follow Jesus.
This meal reaches back through the centuries.
This table reaches around the world.
All: Let us eat and drink with joy.

Confession & Pardon (unison)

All: Holy God,
Forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and undone.
Uphold us by your Spirit
so that we may live and serve you
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Silence Is Kept For Prayers Of Confession & Hope

Pastor: The bread is offered to each person at the Table.
The cup is given to all–for the forgiveness of sins.
It is through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ
that we now receive forgiveness. Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Let us offer one another signs of peace and love.

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you. Rev. Stephanie Gameros
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: 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,
Lord God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
In the beginning, you hovered amidst the chaos
and spoke beauty into the world.
At the sound of your voice, lights shimmered, land masses shifted,
trees towered and flowers blossomed.
You spoke into being the beetles and butterflies, frogs and fish,
tigers and tarantulas—a world teeming with life and energy.
And you formed us, O God; from the dust of the earth you shaped us.
And your breath filled us. And it was very good.

But we did not appreciate the goodness of your creation.
We found what we thought were faults and tried to fix them,
only to realize we had introduced brokenness into the world.
We spoke our own words of destruction
that threatened to drown out your voice of creation.

And so, you again entered the chaos, embodied in Jesus of Nazareth.
You again spoke to us and filled us with life.
You again touched our bodies, and we were made whole.
And though this broken world broke your body,
you burst forth from the tomb in the glory of resurrection.

So, with those who gather around Tables of peace and hope
in every corner of our world,
and with those who are with you in glory,
we offer our praises and join the unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ
whom your Spirit anointed to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to proclaim your salvation.

Jesus spoke words of peace and walked in the way of peace.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and shared meals with sinners.
By his life, death, and resurrection, O God, you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

And so this morning, we join with the church universal
in proclaiming the abundant life you offer
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Rev. Sunae Cho
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."
And so,
In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving,
as a holy and living sacrifice.
All honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen, Amen, Amen
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

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.

Sharing In The Bread And Cup/Invitation To Prayer Stations

Rev. Sunae Cho

Unison Prayer

Rev. Stephanie Gameros

All: Generous Lord, in word and eucharist
we have proclaimed the mystery of your love:
help us so to live out our days that we may be
signs of your wonders in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Living as the Church

Offering & Thanksgiving (organ)

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)

You Feed Us, Gentle Savior
W&S 3169

1. You feed us, gentle Savior, the bread that makes us whole,
the wine of your compassion poured out into our soul.
The food of your own presence, your Spirit, strong, within,
the grace that heals us deeply and overcomes our sin.

2. You bind us, gentle Savior, and weave us into one,
one flesh and blood made holy, the Body of your Son.
We gather here in hunger, one hunger, all the same;
and with one grace you bless us together in his name.

3. You call us, gentle Savior, and send us in your name.
You teach and heal and show us how we can do the same.
So, strengthened by your Spirit and nourished by your grace,
we go to be your presence in love, in every place.

Closing Prayer (responsive)

Ron Fujie

Leader: And the Savior's table will be wide.
And the welcome will be wide.
And the arms will open wide to gather us in.
And our hearts will open wide to receive.

People: And we will come as children who trust
there is enough.
And we will come unhindered and free.
And our aching will be met with bread.
And our sorrow will be met with wine.

All: And we will become bread for a hungering world.
And we will become drink for those who thirst.
And the blessed will become the blessing.
And everywhere will be the feast. Amen

Jan Richardson (adapt)

Postlude

Revive Us Again

John Husband
arr. Larry Shackley

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