LAKE MERRITT
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHRIST COMMUNITY CAUSE

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 Presence

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

Jim Meredith, Music Director
jimmeredith@mac.com

Sean Hyland, Church Operations Manager
office@lakemerrittumc.org

November 15, 2026
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude Surely The Presence of The Lord — Lanny Wolfe, LMUMC Bell Choir

Welcome — Pastor Sunae

Opening Prayer (responsive) — Dan Strauss

Leader: We come from our ordinary, everyday lives
to seek the presence of the Living God.
**People: We gather to look upon the Christ, to worship Him,
and to be refocused by His grace.**

Leader: Jesus does not call us to stay safely inside these walls.
He equips us, then He sends us.
**People: He calls us to love boldly, to serve faithfully,
and to disciple patiently wherever He places us.**

Leader: Let us praise the God who commissions us
to share the Good News with the world.

**All: With all that we are,
let us worship and praise the Lord! Amen**

Disciple Ministries

Opening Song (Please stand if able)

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations
UMH 569 vs 1,2,3

**1. We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy,
a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.**

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.**

**2. We've a song to be sung to the nations,
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil
and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword.**

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

3. We've a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us,
and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love.

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

Children's Moment

Margaret LeWright

Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)

Dan Strauss

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

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

Response

Go Ye Into All the World

Eugene Butler
LMUMC Choir

Sermon

Rediscovering Jesus as Presence

Pastor Sunae

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)

You Are the Seed
UMH 583

1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
you're a star that will shine in the night;
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the dark.
You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
You are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
my witnesses where'er you go.

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."

2. You are the flame that will lighten the dark,
sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love;
You are the shepherds to lead the whole world
through valleys and pastures of peace.
You are the friends that I chose for myself,
the word that I want to proclaim.
You are the new kingdom built on a rock
where justice and truth always reign.

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."

3. You are the life that will nurture the plant;
you're the waves in a turbulent sea;
Yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,
a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide,
nor a mountain can cover its might;
May your good deeds show a world in despair
a path that will lead all to God.

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."

Closing Prayer (unison) — Dan Strauss

All: We ask in Jesus' name,
who sends us out to speak
love and mercy and grace
to those who are waiting,
longing,
hoping,
for a sign
that they are not alone,
that you are a God of love,
that you are a Savior who knows their name,
that the Holy Spirit is leading them home. Amen.

Christine Jerrett

Postlude — In the Presence of Jehovah — Geron and Becky Davis, arr. Mark Hayes