LAKE MERRITT
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHRIST COMMUNITY CAUSE

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

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Cry Out

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Adapted from Sanctified Art

November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude Toccata in D Minor Johann Jacob Froberger

Welcome Pastor Sunae

Opening Prayer (responsive) The Hanowsky Family

Leader: When the nights are long
and the roads are hard,
People: we turn our eyes to the stars.
Leader: When the work is demanding
and injustice unending,
People: we stand together, arm in arm.
Leader: When fear looms large
and grief weighs heavy,
People: we cry out to God without holding back.
Leader: And when the dawn of tomorrow
feels far away,
**People: we gather together to light the candle
of hope.**

Lighting the candle of Hope

Leader: Like the stars above,
may this light shine bright.
**People: May it guide our path.
May it inspire deeper hope.**
Leader: Until God's promised day,
may it be so.
All: Amen.

Opening Song (Please stand if able)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
UMH 211 vs 1,2,4,6

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Children's Moment

Decorating the Christmas Tree

Scripture

Isaiah 64: 1-9 (NRSVUE)

The Hanowsky Family

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence -
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil -
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Response And There Will Be Signs — Stephen Chatman, LMUMC Choir

Sermon Cry Out — Pastor Sunae

Prayers & Gratitudes

Nothing Can Trouble
TFWS 2054 (3x)

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,
those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,
God alone fills us.**

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

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 (Please stand if able)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
UMH 196

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou are;
desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Closing Prayer (responsive) The Hanowsky Family

Leader: As you leave this place,
may you speak the truth in love,
may you hold fast to courage,
may you be quick to joy,
may you listen for the angels,
and may you build each other up,
until we reach God's promised day—
when the lion will lie down with the lamb
and the sun will rise over all of us.
People: That is what we move toward.
That is what we dream of.
So we look toward the horizon,
and go with hope.
Leader: Go in peace.
All: Amen

Postlude Pasticcio Jean Langlais