

OUR RECONCILING STATEMENT

(Approved February 17, 2019)

Inspiring the world as passionate followers of Jesus Christ so all can experience God's life-giving love.

Echo Park United Methodist Church is a faith community seeking to live in joyous response to the love of God in Christ.

We are people of Christ's new creation called to be ministers of reconciliation.

We are not always of the same mind, but we seek to be of the same Spirit, reaching out in unconditional love to let others know that there is a place of reconciliation: "There is a Balm in Gilead."

We share the Gospel and Spirit of Jesus Christ and open our community to all, especially to those who are hurt or have been left out because of racial differences, ethnic origin, gender identity, legal or immigration status, language, sexual orientation, disability, all who have suffered abuse or abandonment by society, or even by the church.



We invite you to make ECHO PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH your spiritual home as together we celebrate being a reconciling and inclusive ministry. We strive to love as Jesus loved, welcoming all people and excluding no one. It takes open hearts, open minds and open doors to make a place of real equality, respect, justice and peace. It takes people loving people to make God's reign a reality.

ECHO PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Reconciling Congregation

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Web: <https://echoparkumc.wordpress.com>

Facebook: @EchoParkUnitedMethodistChurch

Instagram: @EchoParkUnitedMethodist

Pastor: Rev. Frank Wulf + Music Director: Mina Rhee

WORSHIP FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY

IN LENT

March 8, 2019 + 10:30 a.m.



Welcome to Echo Park United Methodist Church A Reconciling Congregation



We are a church of open hearts, open minds and open doors.
We welcome you to worship here just as you are!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

– Mina Rhee

INTROIT

O Christ, the Healer

– The Chancel Choir

Words: Fred Pratt Green; Music: *Geistliche Lieder* (Klug)
(verse 1)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come To This Place!

– John Chavis

From the United Church of Christ website

(https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/called_to_be_the_church_five_sundays_of_lent.pdf)

Liturgist: Blessed and blessing, loving and loved, God's people of Echo Park United Methodist Church, come to this place!

People: We're ready!

Liturgist: From times of work, from times of play, from times of busy-ness, from times away, God's people of Echo Park United Methodist Church, come!

People: We're set!

Liturgist: To speak and to receive, to sing and to pray, God's

*** INDICATES: PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT AS YOU PREFER.**

people of Echo Park United Methodist Church, come!

People: We're here! We're here! We're here to worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

— Pastor Frank Wulf

From the United Church of Christ website

(https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/called_to_be_the_church_five_sundays_of_lent.pdf)

*HYMN OF PRAISE

The Gift of Love

— The Congregation

Words: Hal Hopson; Music: Traditional English Melody

(United Methodist Hymnal #408 – verses 1, 2, 3)

WELCOME

— Lay Leader Lois Price

ANNOUNCEMENTS

— Pastor Frank Wulf

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children's Song Jesus Loves the Little Children

— The Congregation

Words & Music: George F. Root

**Jesus loves the little children,
all the little children of the world.**

**Every color, every race,
all are covered by God's grace.**

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Children's Message

— Franie Maddela

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Invitation to Confession

— Led by John Chavis

Personal Prayers of Confession

— The Congregation Prays in Silence

Community Prayer of Confession

— The Congregation

By Laura Jaquith Bartlett on the *Ministry Matters* website.

People: God of salvation, you shower our lives and our world with love, yet we too often turn away from your blessing. It is just so easy to complain! There are little annoyances each day, but they pile up into a mountainous burden that becomes a curse on our lives.

Free us from unwise choices, O God. When we are distracted and confused, redirect our attention to the abundant opportunities to experience your love. During this Lenten journey, focus our hearts on you,

*POSTLUDE

— Mina Rhee

ENTER TO WORSHIP



DEPART TO SERVE

FELLOWSHIP TIME HOSTS

TODAY, MARCH 8, 2020

Franie Maddela + Jim & Susan Ballagh + Rodriguez Family

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020

Sally Case + Retha Matson + Jennifer Cenicerros

Following worship, all are invited to a time of food and fellowship in the Basement Dining Room.

BIBLE VERSES FOR COMFORT AND INSPIRATION

THE WEEK OF MARCH 1-7

Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" (Matthew 14:10, NRSV)

THE WEEK OF MARCH 8-14

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16, NRSV)

HEALTH UPDATE

THE NOVA CORONA VIRUS (COVID 19) AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

The Centers for Disease Control recently recommended that people over the age of 60 and people with compromised immune systems avoid public gatherings like church worship services in the face of the emerging COVID 19 health crisis. In response to this recommendation, Echo Park United Methodist Church has begun to live-stream its worship services on Facebook in an effort to provide for the spiritual needs of its community. For those who choose to continue participating in worship services in person, however, we offer the following guidance:

- Avoid physical contact such as handshakes or hugs. Instead, greet each other with a smile, a slight bow, or even an elbow-bump.
- Wash your hands with soap and warm water on a regular basis and use hand sanitizers as an alternative.
- Stay home if you are not feeling well, and especially if you are sneezing or coughing.
- If you do cough or sneeze in public, cover your mouth with a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- Seek immediate medical intervention if you develop flu-like symptoms.
- Sanitize those areas with which you have a lot of contact.

Even as we pray for God to protect us during this health crisis, it is important that we do what we can to keep ourselves and others healthy.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts.
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication of Our Gifts** – *The Congregation*

People: God of all creation, we know that all we have and are is blessed and a blessing. In this sharing, we add blessings to yours. May all of these blessings bring hope and healing to your world. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

***HYMN OF DEDICATION** Go Forth for God – *The Congregation*
Words: Claudia F. Hernaman; Music: USA Folk Melody
(*The United Methodist Hymnal* #269 – Verses 1, 2, 3, 4)

SENDING FORTH

***BLESSED TO LOVE AND SERVE**

***Benediction** – *Pastor Frank Wulf*

Pastor: Blessed and blessing, loving and loved, God's people of Echo Park United Methodist Church, go from this place!

People: We are ready!

Pastor: To times of work, to times of play, to times of busy-ness, to times away, God's people of Echo Park United Methodist Church, go to the world!

People: We are set!

Pastor: To speak and to listen, to sing and to pray, to be a blessing, each and every day, God's people of Echo Park United Methodist Church, go and be stewards of the faith. We are Jesus' people on the Way.

People: We go, knowing that we are never alone! Carried by the wings of the Holy Spirit, moving forward with Christ's peace, enfolded in the Creator's love, we go! Amen. Amen! AMEN!

***Benediction Response** O Christ, the Healer – *The Chancel Choir*
Words: Fred Pratt Green; Music: *Geistliche Lieder* (Klug)
(verse 5)

that we may choose the blessing of salvation offered us each day through Jesus Christ, in whom we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

– *Led by John Chavis*

Liturgist: God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn it, but that the world might be saved through him. Through the saving love of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and blessed!

People: Through the saving love of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and blessed!

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD! AMEN.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***HYMN OF PREPARATION** You Are Mine – *The Congregation*

Words & Music: David Haas
(verses 1, 2, 3. 4 + refrain)

Verse 1: I will come to you in the silence,
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice,
I claim you as my choice,
be still and know I am here.

Verse 2: I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light,
come and rest in me.

Refrain: Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home.
I love you and you are mine.

Verse 3: I am strength for all the despairing,
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see,
all people will run free,
and all will know my name. (*Refrain*)

Verse 4: I am the Word that leads all to freedom,
I am the peace the world cannot give.

**I will call your name,
embracing all your pain,
stand up, now walk, and live. (Refrain)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

— The Congregation shares aloud

Prayer of the Community

— Prayed by Pastor Frank Wulf

The Prayer Jesus Taught Us

— Led by John Chavis

People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

O Christ, the Healer

— The Chancel Choir

Words: Fred Pratt Green; Music: *Geistliche Lieder* (Klug)
(verse 2)

SCRIPTURE READING

God Calls Abram

— Read by John Chavis

Genesis 12:1-4a (New Revised Standard Version, alt.)

¹Now GOD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as GOD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Liturgist: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Beautiful Savior

— The Chancel Choir

Words: *Munster Gesang Buch*; Music: Silesian Folk Song

***GOSPEL READING**

The New Birth

— Read by Pastor Frank Wulf

John 3:1-17 (New Revised Standard Version, alt.)

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know

that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the reign of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the reign of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Human One. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in that One may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that God gave God’s only Child, so that everyone who believes in that One may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Child into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through the Child.”

Pastor: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Bless You!

— Pastor Frank Wulf

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to the Offering

— John Chavis

Offertory

— Mina Rhee

***Doxology**

— The Congregation

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Words: Thomas Ken; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*
(United Methodist Hymnal #94)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Thank you to Lois Price for this morning's *Altar Flowers*, which she has donated in honor of her son Ron's birthday.
2. *The Finance and Stewardship Committee* and *the Board of Trustees* will gather together in a joint meeting at 12:00 pm to discuss matters relating to the ADA Compliant Bathroom on the 1st floor, Council District 13's request for Echo Park UMC to provide shelter for unhoused persons living in Echo Park, and for other financial and trustees matters as needed. We will be joined in this meeting by a representative from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.
3. *Called to Be the Church*, our Lenten Bible Study for 2020 will continue this coming Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 pm. This week's topic is "Bless You!" based on Genesis 12:1-4a. You will be able to find materials and information about preparing for the study on the church website. You may join this study in person or online. The link to join online is: <https://zoom.us/j/992058268?pwd=ZHVBNmRMc282MnRYd3dZaFB3WVFTZz09>.
4. Join us for a '*No Están Solos!*' *Migrant Welcoming Event* this coming Friday, March 13, at 7:00 pm in the first-floor meeting room.
5. Thank you to all who participated in our *Spring Rummage Sale* yesterday. We made more than \$1,000.
6. Sunday, March 22, is *UMCOR Sunday*, one of six special Sundays of The United Methodist Church. On that date, we will take a special offering to support UMCOR and its work.
7. Our *Spring Stewardship Sunday* will be held on March 29. Watch for more information in your mail or email.
8. To make a donation to *UMCOR* to help provide relief for victims of natural disasters around the world, including recent tornados in Tennessee, visit www.umcor.org.
9. To make a donation to the *EPUMC Building Restoration Fund*, join our GoFundMe campaign online: www.gofundme.com/echo-park-um-church-restoration.
10. *Recycling Sunday* is March 15. Please bring your cleaned and sorted recyclables on that date and place them into the appropriate bins.

SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES WITH OUR NEIGHBORS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Shower Stop

We offer free showers every Tuesday and every third Thursday of the month from 9am to 2pm in the Church Parking Lot. Showers are provided as a cooperative effort of the Echo Park Neighborhood Council, Urban Alchemy, SELAH, the County of Los Angeles, and Echo Park United Methodist Church.

Auxiliary Services

Hot Meals, Clothing, Hygiene Products, Case Management

Every Tuesday from 9am to 12pm, we offer free hot meals, new and gently used clothing, and hygiene supplies to those who need them. This program is provided as a cooperative effort of the Echo Park Neighborhood Council, SELAH, Homeless Health Care, and Echo Park United Methodist Church.

We are in need of donations of the following items (travel-size only, please): Deodorant, Shampoo, Hand Sanitizer, Tissues, Shaving Cream, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Combs, Lip Balm, Sunscreen, Tampons, New Socks, New Underwear. You can also make an online purchase from our Amazon wish list: <https://amzn.to/2ktf7Xe>.

The Source

A monthly Resource Fair with food and services for those experiencing homelessness every third Thursday of the month at the Edendale Library. The next Source will be Thursday, March 19. The Source is a cooperative project of the Los Angeles City Libraries, SELAH, and the County Department of Mental Health.

Laundry Love

Up to eight free loads of laundry for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and poverty from 6 to 8pm every third Tuesday of the month at Aroma Laundry.

Homeless Count

Each January, Echo Park UMC hosts the annual LA County Homeless Count for the Echo Park neighborhood.