



Worship Celebration
January 7, 2024

Twin Towers United Methodist Church
1411 Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501

510.522.6744 | twintowers.office@gmail.com | www.twintowersumc.org

WORSHIP GUIDE

Before you begin your time of worship, find a comfortable place to be and gather whatever you might need: your Bible, something to write on and with, your computer/connected device (if you intend to listen to music online), etc. Feel free to adapt this worship guide in any way that makes best sense to you and those you might be gathered with. (Consider inviting someone – a friend, a family member – to worship with you.) Commit to spending the next hour with God.

PRELUDE – Listen and sing along to a song or hymn that blesses and centers your spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Star of love, lead us!

All: Light of love, guide us!

Leader: Holy Child, help us honor you.

All: King of love, we offer you our gifts.

Leader: Jesus, on this journey of mystery, help us seek you.

All: On this pilgrimage of faith, help us serve you. God, in awe and wonder we worship you.

Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN – “Honor and Praise” TFWS 2018

SCRIPTURE READING – **Genesis 1:1-5 and Matthew 2:1-12 NRSV**

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that

they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON – You can watch Pastor Akesa’s message [here](#).

ANTHEM OF RESPONSE – “Star Child” TFWS 2095 v. 1,3,5

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE – *Spend time in prayer. What did you hear for yourself through today’s scripture and reflection? Talk to God about it. Then lift up the joys and concerns that are in your heart. You might write them down, speak them aloud, or pray for them in silence.*

We would be honored to pray with you and for you. Please send a note via text, mail, or email or give a call to our Healing Prayer Team.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

How might you offer yourself and all that you have to God this week? How are you being invited to practice generosity? Spend a moment listening for God’s direction.

You are invited to contribute financially towards the purpose and ministry of TTUMC. We are a congregation committed to being conduits of God’s healing in our neighborhood and beyond, and in so doing, impact the last and the least. You can contribute by mailing in a check, dropping off cash, or giving online (visit <https://twintowersumc.org/give>).

CLOSING HYMN – “Jesus, the Light of the World” W&S 3056 v. 1,3

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - “Rise Up Shepherd and Follow” TFWS 2096

NOW GO AND PASS CHRIST’S PEACE!

Announcements and Invitations

NEED HELP WITH GROCERIES?

Everyone needs a little help now and then.
When you do, we're here.

To learn more go to:
www.alamedafoodbank.org/get-food
or scan the QR code below.



Whether you need help once a week,
once a month, or once a year, long term
or short term, we're here for you
with healthy and nutritious food.



*Share the
invitation*



Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday
5:00 p.m.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

'Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?'
-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

East Bay Parks is hosting volunteer projects at the following MLK Shoreline Locations:

- Shoreline Cleanup at Tidewater Boating Center
- Gardening and Maintenance at MLK Grove
- Shoreline Cleanup at Oakport Staging Area

Register online:

https://ebrpd.samaritan.com/custom/501/opp_details/8588

The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) will celebrate the national observance of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as a Day of Service, providing FREE admission to the museum and programs throughout the day.

Monday, January 15, 2024 - 11a - 5p

Registration Encouraged:

<https://www.moadsf.org/event/dr-martin-luther-king-jr-national-day-of-service-free-admission>



Ruby Broobs Marquez, MLK Jr., 2018. Digital photo collage. Courtesy of the artist.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

4:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024

Reed L. Buffington Visual & Performing Arts Center on the Chabot College campus

The event is open to the public and will not require a ticket.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: PROFESSOR SILVESTER HENDERSON



Twin Towers United Methodist Church with Alameda Friends & Family for Ceasefire invite you to a conversation with

Rabbi David J. Cooper with Kehilla Community Synagogue on the War in Israel/Palestine

Zoom - Registration Link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpceGuqzgjHdBvY1n5b_PJEhcfQGI3o3Ge

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17, 2024
6:00 pm

In-Person
Twin Towers United Methodist Church
1411 Oak Street, Alameda, CA



David Cooper is Rabbi Emeritus of Kehilla Community Synagogue in the Oakland Piedmont area. He co-founded the synagogue with Rabbi Burt Jacobson in 1984. It was dedicated to a progressive vision of social activism inspired by the writings of the Hebrew prophets. Rabbi David grew up surrounded by traditions in the Conservative, and the Orthodox Jewish movements. He grew up in a Zionist family and first visited Israel/Palestine just after the 1967 war. During the next 56 years, he has supported equal rights and dignity for all Israelis and Palestinians and has been active against the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

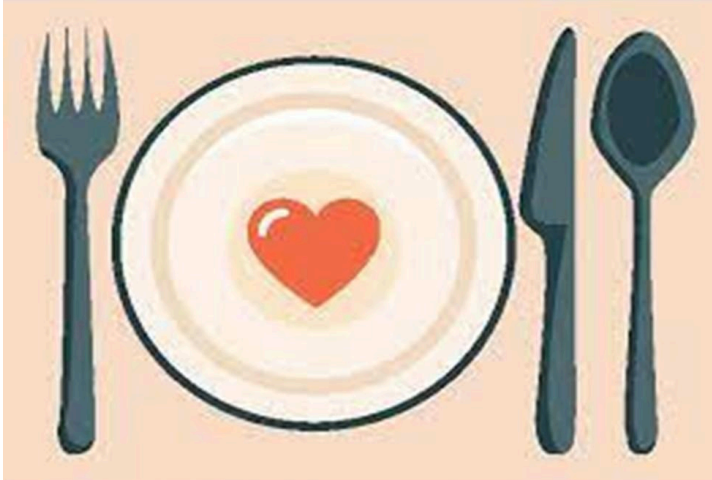
@TTUMCALAMEDA @alameda4ceasefire



REGISTER FOR ZOOM MEETING USING THIS LINK:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpceGuqzgjHdBvY1n5b_PJEhcfQGI3o3Ge

Volunteers Needed for December Dine & Connect Monday, February 5



Help us prepare and serve
135 meals for our
neighbors!

Shifts:

12 p.m.- 4 p.m. - Cooking & Plating
4 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. Serving & Cleaning Up

Sign-up to help us prepare and serve 135 meals for our neighbors:

[W DandC Volunteer Sign Up.docx](#)

Alameda Warming Shelter at Twin Towers UMC Church Gym

February 19 – March 2

