

Our Vision:
To Be the Lantern to Leisure World

Our Mission:
Lighting a pathway into Community.
Growing disciples in God's Love.
Sending the Hope and Joy of Jesus into the Community.

Leisure World Community Church in Worship November 20, 2022

14000 Church Place
Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

9:50 am
(562) 431-2503

Opening Announcements — Rev. Johan Dodge

Good Morning and Welcome to Worship!

Worship is often the first place that new people come into contact with this growing community of faith. And so if you are joining us for the first time, I say to you what I say every Sunday. You are welcome here. Here is a place where all are welcome. For such is the love of God for God's Very Good Creation. And if you are enjoying this worship experience, I invite you to give to God in support of this growing faith community.

[please stand as you are able]

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE OF ADVENT— “Lord”

Don & Peggy Coles

Leader: As our nights grow longer and our days grow short, we look on these earthly signs — light and green branches — and remember God's promise to our world:

People: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.

Leader: Listen to the words of Creation in Genesis:

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let

the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. Genesis 1:9-13

*[Candle is lit while All sing: **Christmas Doxology**]*

Leader: Let us pray.

People: God of all times and all places, be with us in this time and this place. Just as you have spoken to your people through prophets and poets, we pray that we might hear the Word you speak to us today. Just as you have spoken to your people through deeds and miracles, we pray that we might have eyes to see the Word you speak to us today. Just as you have called your people to act in the midst of your creation, we pray that we might have feet to walk and hands to reach out; for the sake of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY – Phyllis Spencer

**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.**

Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Loving God, you have assured us that the days are surely coming when your people will know peace, your people will know justice, your people will know righteousness. Confident in your promises, we proclaim with faith:

The Lord is our example of Loving Kindness.

You have assured us that a leader will come to rule with wisdom. We pray this day for those in particular need of justice, kindness, and mercy. We pray for the trampled, the ignored, the brushed aside. We pray for the house-less, the love-less, and the health-less. We pray for leaders in governments, homes, communities, and schools, that they may know the influence of wisdom rather than power; and declare with faith:

The Lord is our example of Loving Kindness.

You have assured us of the salvation and safety of your people. We pray this day for those who only know violence: those whose countries have been torn apart by invasion, civil war, and private armies, those whose communities have been forgotten by all but the warlords and gangs, those whose homes are places of danger and fear rather than sanctuary and love. May they declare with certitude:

The Lord is our example of Loving Kindness.

God of all creation we pray this day for the reign of Jesus the Christ. We pray that in the midst of chaos we might hear Jesus 'word to us; that in the midst of heartache we might know Jesus 'presence, and in the midst of a cacophony of voices we might proclaim:

The Lord is our example of Loving Kindness. Amen.

Anthem: "Would I Miss the Miracle?"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Phyllis Spencer

Holy God, through the generations you have spoken to us. You have sent voices crying out in the wilderness. You have sent the words of an overjoyed new father and an expectant mother. You have sent the assurance of a condemned man on a cross. Quiet in us any voice but your own that, by the power of your Spirit, we might hear the words you speak to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Phyllis Spencer

Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ²Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings,

says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. ⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Message: "New Earth" Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

The prophet Jeremiah warns of shepherds who will destroy and scatter God's people (Jer. 23:1–2). How do we discern the difference between shepherds who have come to scatter and shepherds who have been raised up by God?

Reflection: "The Christmas Song" John Flucker, pianist

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Phyllis Spencer

The blessed apostle Paul sings the praises of our Lord Jesus Christ, the firstborn of all creation; in whom all things in heaven and on earth were created. Let us affirm God's sovereignty over all creation, continuing our worship through the offering of our gifts to the Lord.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Dave Albulario, tenor

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Phyllis Spencer

Holy God, you have looked upon your people with mercy, generosity, and love. You have granted your favor to your people, offering them redemption, salvation, and wisdom. And so we offer these gifts for your hurting and broken world. May they be multiplied to do your service. May we be strengthened to do your work. In the name of Jesus the Christ, who multiplied small gifts and fed multitudes. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

Go out into the world in peace, declaring the love of God for creation. Go out into the world with courage, supporting the ways God gives light to those who sit in darkness and guides our feet in the way of peace. And now may the holy triune God, the visible and invisible, guide your feet, strengthen your hands, and fortify your heart this day and evermore. Amen.

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. Amen.

Notes and Announcements:

Flowers: Provided by Kelly Frankiewicz- in celebration of her birthday.

Refreshments: Provided by Kelly Frankiewicz- in celebration of her birthday.

See the sign up charts to provide refreshments or cover cost of altar flowers. Altar flowers are \$35. Sandy Walker coordinates arrangements.

Tree of Gratitude: Spend some time in prayer reflecting on the ways that God has blessed you this past year. Jot that note of gratitude on a leaf and stick it to the tree in the Narthex. Leaves will also be available to fill out in the office to be mounted on the tree. The last day to present a leaf is November 20.

Christmas Crafts: Join us every Monday at 10:00 am in Edgar Hall through November 28. Crafts and Chrismons (tree decorations) will be created in preparation for the Community Church Christmas Bazaar on December 3. Please bring a bagged lunch and a friend and enjoy the fellowship.

Christmas Bazaar: Community Church congregation is not only invited to attend the Church Bazaar, but also to participate by providing what is needed to make it all happen.

People who love to bake: Please bring in your baked, packaged and ready for sale baked items.

People who love to knit/crochet/craft: Please bring in hats, mittens, scarves, craft projects ready to display and sell.

People who have beautiful Nativity displays: Please bring them in to display (not sell) at the Bazaar.

Please bring in the items to the church office by December 2nd. Call Taylor White with any questions or to make pick up arrangements. 562-208-3359. A tour and explanation of the scenes in the beautiful stained glass windows in the sanctuary will be given.

Make sure to invite your friends, neighbors, and family to attend this festive event. Bazaar begins at 10 am, lunch at 11:30 (\$7) and ends at 2 pm.

Christmas Doxology

Transcribed and Adapted by David Albulario for Leisure World Community Church, Seal Beach, California

Words by
THOMAS KEN;
adapt. Dale A. Schoening

Traditional German Carol
O TANNENBAUM

$\text{♩} = 100$

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow, in ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion. Praise

6

God, all crea - tures here be-low, who gives to us sal - va - tion. Praise

10

God a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host, Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Let

14

all cre-a - tion praise the Lord with love and ad - or - a - tion.

Angels We Have Heard On High

Transcribed and Adapted by David Albulario for Leisure World Community Church, Seal Beach, California

Words: French carol translated
by James Chadwick

Music: French carol melody *GLORIA*
Setting by Edward S. Barnes

$\text{♩} = 130$

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the lyrics. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the line 'Glo - - - - ri - a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!' with a long melisma on 'Gloria'. The fourth system contains the same line 'Glo - - - - ri - a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!' with a different melisma. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and features a mix of chords and moving lines. The tempo is marked as 130 beats per minute.

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See Him in a man - ger laid, Whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

5 And the moun - tains in re - ply E - cho - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.

9 Glo - - - - ri - a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!

15 Glo - - - - ri - a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!

Let There Be Peace on Earth

*Transcribed for Leisure World Community Church by David Albulario
with hope for peace and refuge for the people of Ukraine, and for all the World*

Music & Words by
SY MILLER and JILL JACKSON

Flowing rubato ♩ = 100

