

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 *December 4, 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 FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT— “Christ the Way”

Jeanette Williams & Fred Reker

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 Genesis 1.9-12

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.

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

Leader: Let us pray.

O come, thou Branch of Jesse’s tree. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel! that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.”

People: you brought forth a royal branch from the ancient stock of Jesse’s line: Grant that we who have been grafted into this heritage may bear fruit worthy of Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY – Kelly Frankiewicz

**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: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

We come to you this day, O God, with a deepening anticipation of your birth among us.

We thank you for the gift of your love.

Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

We pray for the church throughout the world, and for all the ministries that build up the body of Christ, that in our many vocations we may serve to your glory.

Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

We pray for this nation and for all nations, remembering especially those who are victims of political and social injustice. We pray for elected officials and all leaders, that they will govern with courage and equity.

Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

We pray for all in need: for the sick, the destitute, and the dying; for strangers in our land, for the invisible ones; for the elderly and children; for parents and grandparents; for those who live alone and those who live lonely in the midst of family.

Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

We remember with mercy those who sleep without shelter, cold and vulnerable, lacking enough food; those who are overworked and those who have no work. Stir up in us the capacity to see ourselves in their struggles and to act so that others may have life abundant.

Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

We pray for this community, for our neighbors and friends, and for those with whom we study and work. Guide and strengthen all people in our common life to know the gifts of your grace and love.

Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

For what else does this assembly pray on this day?

[A Time of Silence is Kept]

Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

May all that we ask and all that you see is needed in our world, be given to your people; through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Anthem: "Fum, Fum, Fum"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Kelly Frankiewicz

Your word, Holy God, was written for our instruction. By your Holy Spirit open our ears and fill us with the mysteries of your ancient love; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Kelly Frankiewicz

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Matthew 3:1-12

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Message: “Glorious Dwelling” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

Look for places where the wolf and the lamb lie down together in peace. Where do you see that peace in your relationships, in your family or circle of friends, in the neighborhood, the city, the nation, and the world? Even within yourself, where has peace been forged between previously warring factions? Where is peace yet elusive in your relationships? What might you do to change that?

Reflection: “What Child Is This?” John Fluker, pianist

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION:

We are pleased to offer both white and red grape juice. If you are afraid of spilling red grape juice, a limited number of cups with white grape juice are provided.

Invitation to Communion (Pastor Johan Dodge)

Here at Community Church we celebrate “Open Communion”. Anyone who wishes to commune may come to our Lord’s Table. You do not have to be sinless; God forgives you. You do not have to be perfect; but God is encouraging you to grow. You need not belong to this or any church; God Invites all people to this meal. It is enough to love the Lord and follow Him with all your heart. This is what God asks us to do. Come to our Lord’s Table in faith this day. Go from

this place to live, and never be the same again. Let us commune as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to this your Church, delivered us from

slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you O God, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

[Ushers, please distribute the elements]

The Sharing of the Bread

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

The Sharing of the Cup

The bread which we have eaten is a sharing in the bread of Christ. The cup over which we give thanks is the sharing in the cup of Christ.

Unison Prayer

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Kelly Frankiewicz

We bear fruit worthy of our repentance when we give our tithes and offerings for the well-being of those at the margins of our society.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “In the Bleak Midwinter” Chris Wade, baritone

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Kelly Frankiewicz

We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things: for this universe and for Earth itself, for creatures and plants, for water and food, for light and darkness; for Jesus, our brother, who enlarged our vision, setting himself before us as the bread and wine of abundant life; and for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in baptism and moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you. Turn our offerings to your good will, and turn us always to you in gratitude. Amen.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit and may you live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify God.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit and may you live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify God.

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 Jon Sofian

Refreshments: Provided by Joanna Matos.

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

Missions: Drive Through Food Drive, Wednesday, December 7 from 10 am to noon. (Or drop off your non-perishable food donations at the office during the week)

Poinsettias: Please pick up a special "Holiday Flower Order" envelope from the check in table if you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. Please fill out the form stapled to the envelope, insert a \$15 check or cash and drop it in the offering plate. Poinsettias may be picked up after Christmas worship service. The poinsettias will adorn the Sanctuary altar for December 18, 24 and 25 services.

Christmas Party: Wednesday, December 14 at 2:30 p.m.

Bring a covered dish, your own plate and eating utensils. We will provide coffee and juice. Entertainment after lunch.

Blue Christmas service: Wednesday, December 21 at 10 am.

Service on mourning and loss with new hope. Hannah & David to provide Music.

Christmas Eve: Saturday at 4pm. Nativity Story with lessons and carols.

Christmas Day: Sunday Worship Service at 9:50 am, "Come From Away".