

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 18, 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 SIXTH CANDLE OF ADVENT— "Peace"

Fred and Wilma Wind

Leader: People of God, do not be afraid. Listen to the Word of the Lord who promises to be with us in every age. Spread this Word to those who live without hope. Live this Word as people who know God-with-us, Immanuel.

People: Bring us from fear to awe, we pray; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, in your resurrection you appeared as the Morning Star that knows no setting: Dawn upon the darkness of the human heart so that the deathly orders of this world may be overcome and your whole creation made new; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever.

People: God-with-us, Immanuel, comes to give us our own Holy Family, here with the body of Christ this day.

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: “Once in Royal David’s City”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

As we come to the festival of Jesus ’birth, let us pray that we hear God’s word clearly and receive the faith God gives, saying: **O God, born in us, hear our prayer.**

Holy One, who astonishes us with surprising gifts, we pray for your church and for people of faith in every language and belief, that your wisdom will show us our common life, and that all people may rejoice in what you create.

O God, born in us, hear our prayer.

Giver of the stars and planets, creator of rivers and oceans, and creatures large and small, we pray for wisdom as we live on and with your earth. Evoke in us awe for your goodness in these familiar surroundings: our hills and valleys, forests and deserts, that the powers you have placed here to move through soil and air will remind us always of your bounty and your love.

O God, born in us, hear our prayer.

Power above all powers, we pray for the leaders of governments in every nation, especially here at home, and those nations currently at war with one another; that they may have wisdom to choose what serves the common good.

O God, born in us, hear our prayer.

Lover of all creation, we pray for all those we too easily forget: those of your children who are poor, or homeless, or in prison; those who are sick, or lonely, or frightened; all who hunger for faith and hope. Care for them, that they may be strengthened by joy in your healing.

O God, born in us, hear our prayer.

Holy One, in whose community we thrive, we pray for those with whom we share our daily lives: our families, friends, and neighbors, those with whom we work and play, those whose names we do not know who provide for us, that we may all be renewed in courage and nurtured in hope.

O God, born in us, hear our prayer.

Sustainer of your people, we give you thanks for members of the body of Christ in every age and every place who, by their witness, bring us here today. Come to us in Christ, O God, that we who live in this world by faith may see that faith confirmed in the world to come; through the risen One who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Anthem: "What Child Is This?"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Phyllis Spencer

As your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary, the mother of our Lord, speak to us now through your Word that by hearing we too may receive faith and be strengthened to do your will. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Phyllis Spencer

Luke 1:46b-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his

name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Message: “Mary Knew!” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

The divine encounters that Mary and Joseph each receive guide them to a way of life that is very different from the culture they were a part of. Joseph is counseled to defy the cultural norms of the day and Mary describes a time of Jubilee in which the world is turned upside down. As the Holy Spirit continues to speak to us today where are you being invited to act boldly for the love of God for the world? Who doubts your ability to be the love of God for the world? Is it you?

Reflection: “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming”

Chris Wade, pianist

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Phyllis Spencer

All that we have is the Lord's. All that we may become and receive is in God's hands. For the sake of the joy that is ours when our bonds grow deep with others, let us give generously for the well-being of the world.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "The Little Drummer Boy" Dave Albulario, tenor

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Phyllis Spencer

Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamations, and you intend for us good things. We thank you for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need, reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

Now let the face of God shine upon you to bless you and save you from all doubt and danger; through Jesus Christ, now and always.

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:

Note: Coffee Fellowship following Sunday Worship is on hold until further notice. Please pick up your grab-and-go refreshments after the 12/18 service only. Refreshments will not be provided after Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or New Years Day services. The kitchen “Elves” are taking a breather!

Flowers: Provided by the congregation and LWKCC

Refreshments: Grab-and-go refreshments are provided by Jeanette Williams & Phyllis Spencer.

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

Poinsettias: If you purchased a poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one, you may be pick it up after the Christmas worship service. The poinsettias will adorn the Sanctuary altar on December 18, 24 and 25.

Blue Christmas service: Wednesday, December 21 at 10 am.
Service on mourning and loss with new hope. Hannah & David to provide Music.

Christmas Dinner at St. Hedwig Catholic Church: For those alone on Christmas. Reservations required. Deadline to reserve is Dec. 21.
Call Ann at 562-387-3057. Doors open at noon. Flyers at the check in table.

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

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

Poinsettias Given With Love

Donated By

Korean Community Church
Carmen Edward
Phyllis Spencer
Gerri Seaton
Joyce Reed

Marylee Thomsen
Roberta Lane
Virginia Olejnik

In Memory/Honor of

Friendship with Community Church
Memory of son, Lionel
Memory of husband, Lee
Memory of parents
Memory of husband, Jim and
Son, Michael

Memory of John Lane
My loved ones passed

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.

Once in Royal David's City

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

Words by
CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER

Music by
HENRY J. GAUNTLETT
Harmonized by A. H. Mann

Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle
He came down to Earth from Hea - ven who is God and Lord of
And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing

shed, Where a mo - ther laid her ba - by in a
all, And his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
love, For that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry was that mo - ther
cra - dle was a stall; With the poor and mean and
Lord in Heav'n a - bove, And he leads his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
low - ly lived on the Earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
on To the place where he is gone.

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

