

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 *January 15, 2023*

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]

CALL TO WORSHIP – “Doxology”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY – Virginia Olejnik

**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: “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

[A time of silence follows each petition]

God of steadfast love, you raise us up when we fall and place our feet on steady ground. Strengthened by your faithfulness, we offer our prayers in thanksgiving for the grace that is ours in Christ.

We pray for the mission of your church, that we may proclaim the good news of the age as we put our trust in you.

We pray for the world, that your saving love may reach to the ends of the earth as we serve the common good.

We pray for all who suffer, that we may heed their cry as we share in your steadfast mercy.

We pray for your creation, that we may safeguard its well-being as we labor together for redemption.

We remember before you those who have died and pray for those who will die today, that they may know your peace.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever. Amen.

Anthem: “How Great Thou Art”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Virginia Olejnik

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove: Open our ears to the truth of your word, that the testimony of Christ may be strengthened among us and the glad news of deliverance revealed. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Virginia Olejnik

Isaiah 49:1-7

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." ⁵And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— ⁶he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

⁷Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

John 1:29-42

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." ³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"

³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What

are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Message: "Come and See: A Light to the Nations" Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

Andrew invited his brother Simon Peter to meet Jesus, and Peter's life was changed forever. Do you invite others to come and see Jesus? How do you watch and listen for those who might be seeking Jesus? Do you trust God to give you gifts for sharing how you came to know of God's love for you and for all of creation? How do you show the world God's love made real in Christ?

Reflection: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" John Flucker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Virginia Olejnik

Our God, who provides for our every need, invites us to give of ourselves as we work and wait for the coming reign of Christ. Trusting in the Spirit to sustain us in all things, let us share generously with those in need.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "You Are My All in All" David Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Virginia Olejnik

We give you thanks, O loving God, that you have placed in the hearts of your faithful people the gift of generosity and the desire to do your will. Use these gifts to proclaim good news to every nation and restore all people to Christ. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: "This Little Light of Mine"

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May God's steadfast love and mercy lead you, and make your steps secure, keeping you forever safe on paths of love, kindness and peace.

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. "Grab & Go" refreshments will be provided.

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

2023 Offering Envelopes: 2023 offering envelope packets are available in the Narthex. Please contact Virginia Olejnik if you have any questions.

January Lantern Newsletter: If you did not receive your copy by mail or email, please pick up your January Lantern at the sign in table in the Narthex.

Building repairs/upgrade help: Our 60 year old building is wearing out and needs attention! Your assistance and support are requested. If you would like to donate financially (separate from your pledge) toward the current roof drain/repair bill of \$6872, please use a green envelope and mark "Roof Repair" on the envelope and memo line of your check .

Memorial Service for Rev. Kathleen Binder: A Celebration of Life Service will be held for former LWCC beloved pastor, Kathleen Binder, on Saturday, January 21 at 2:00 pm. Torrance First UMC 1551 El Prado Ave. Torrance