

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 29, 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 – Hymn: “For All the Saints”

Hymn: “Blessed Assurance”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Redeeming God, you come to us in Christ to rescue us from slavery and lead us out of captivity. Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word this day, that we may be justice seekers and peacemakers, sharing your life among those who are forgotten, weak, or persecuted, and revealing to all your glory.

We pray for those who mourn; may they know the comfort of your abiding presence.

O God, whose wisdom surpasses our understanding, help us to grow as a people of blessing as we offer our prayers for the church and the world.

We pray for the meek; may they receive the goodness of your earth.

O God, whose wisdom surpasses our understanding, help us to grow as a people of blessing as we offer our prayers for the church and the world.

We pray for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness; may they be filled with goodness.

O God, whose wisdom surpasses our understanding, help us to grow as a people of blessing as we offer our prayers for the church and the world.

We pray for those who are merciful; may they also receive mercy.

O God, whose wisdom surpasses our understanding, help us to grow as a people of blessing as we offer our prayers for the church and the world.

We pray for the pure in heart; may they see you face to face.

O God, whose wisdom surpasses our understanding, help us to grow as a people of blessing as we offer our prayers for the church and the world.

We pray for the peacemakers; may they be recognized as your children.

O God, whose wisdom surpasses our understanding, help us to grow as a people of blessing as we offer our prayers for the church and the world.

We pray for those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness; may they know the protection of your realm.

O God, whose wisdom surpasses our understanding, help us to grow as a people of blessing as we offer our prayers for the church and the world.

We rejoice this day and give thanks for the many blessings of this life and for the gift of heaven which is ours even now.

May we, with your prophets from all the ages, have the wisdom to pursue your truth and the courage to do what is holy and right.

We ask all this in the name of Christ, who is our light and our life.
Amen.

Anthem: “God So Loved the World” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Taylor White

Holy God, your blessings are abundant, and your wisdom exceeds our grasp. Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word this day, that we may be justice seekers and peacemakers, sharing your life among those who are forgotten, weak, or persecuted, and revealing to all your glory. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Taylor White

Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten

thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 5:1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵"Blessed

are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶"Blessed are those who

hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷"Blessed

are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸"Blessed are the pure in

heart, for they will see God. ⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they

will be called children of God. ¹⁰"Blessed are those who are

persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of

heaven. ¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute

you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Message: "What Does the Lord Require of You?" Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

How do we live in hope of a reality that is not yet fully realized?

Where in your community's life of prayer and service do you see instances of God's justice, peace, and healing?

Ask God: Where am I being called to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly into all blessedness in the ordinary course of my day?

Reflection: "Cornerstone/Solid Rock" John Fluker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Taylor White

With what shall we come before the Lord this day? We come with a love of justice and a passion for sharing Christ's love. Let us walk in humble gratitude, offering to God a portion of the gifts that God freely shares with us, gifts for the healing of the world.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “Lift Every Voice and Sing” Music Team

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Hymn: “Now Thank We All Our God”

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “This Little Light of Mine”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine brightly on your path as you walk the way of justice and peace. And the blessing of God— the Creator, Healer, and Giver of Life— bless you and keep you 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.

*Music Team: Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*; Lisa Margaroli, *alto*;
Dave Albulario, *tenor*; Chris Wade, *bass*; John Fluker, *pianist*

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship is back on: Refreshments provided by Phyllis Spencer.

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.

February Lantern Newsletter: If you did not receive your copy by mail or email, please pick up your **February** 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 .

Valentine's Day Party: A celebration is scheduled for cancer survivors, cancer patients, and their significant others. A free luncheon and party is scheduled on February 14 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP required by February 10. Contact Taylor White at 562-208-3358.

Souper Bowl Sunday: The Missions Team annual "Souper Bowl" event is scheduled on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12. Please come to worship on February 12 prepared with your cans/boxes of non-perishable food items to deposit in the bin representing your favorite Super Bowl team.