

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 World.

Leisure World Community Church
in Worship *February 12, 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 – Jeanette Williams

God of blessing, you call us to be one with you and your creation in love, faithfulness, and truth. Help us to carry out the vows we make: to adore you with our whole heart, to live in

mutual support of one another, and to love as if your reign has fully come. Amen.

Hymn: “Dear Lord, Lead Me Day by Day”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

We pray for the health and vitality of the church: You command us to honor you by loving one another, yet all too often there is quarreling and jealousy among us. Help us to live your law of love as we seek to grow into the full stature of Christ.

Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.

We pray for the welfare of the world: You have blessed us with every skill and gift for nurturing the common good, yet our self-centered ways incline our hearts toward evil. Strengthen us to work together for the mutual benefit of neighbors near and far and for the life and prosperity of your reign on earth.

Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.

We pray for the well-being of your creation: Our choices wreak havoc on the world you have made and put your planet in peril. Guide our patterns of consumption for the flourishing of all creation and for generations yet unborn.

Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.

We pray for all who suffer and are in need: You call us to care for one other with compassion and steadfast love, yet we wither in the face of anguish and brokenness. Equip us for the work of reconciliation, that we might offer hope and healing in the power of your name.

Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.

We pray for all who are sick and are dying: May your will for them be fulfilled. Fill us with your mercy and kindness that we may care for them with loving hearts as you bring them to the wholeness of your peace.

Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.

We commend all of life to you, O God, knowing that you hear our prayers and answer them according to your will; through Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.

Anthem: “Step by Step – Lead Me Lord” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Jeanette Williams

Loving God, anoint us with your Holy Spirit, as we hear your Word this day. Fill us with your truth that we may walk in the ways of God and to the glory of your realm. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Jeanette Williams

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Matthew 5:21-37

²¹ ‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.” ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something

against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. ²⁷‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. ³¹‘It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. ³³‘Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.” ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

Message: “Choice” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

Today’s readings speak of blessings and curses, life and death, good relationships and those that are broken. Moreover, the texts suggest that we have a choice in these matters. Where do you find life, and where do you not—and what role do your choices play? Where have you experienced broken relationships in your own life or in the church? How do Christ and the reign of heaven enable us to move beyond brokenness and live in mutual support?

Reflection: “I Have Decided to Follow, Jesus” John Flucker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Jeanette Williams

Jesus said, if you remember that if a brother or sister has something against you, first be reconciled to them, and then come and offer your gift. In peace, let us bring our offerings to God.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “Something Like a Star” Chris Wade, *baritone*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Jeanette Williams

Holy God, we offer you these gifts with thanks, so that together we may plant and water the seeds of your new world. May we be your faithful servants as we cultivate your love, knowing that in all we accomplish, it is you who gives the growth. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Make Me A Channel of Your Peace”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May the wisdom of God, the love of Christ, and the peace of the Spirit illumine your choices and may your choices reflect the love of God for the world in your lives this day 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.

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

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship is back on: Refreshments and flowers are provided by Steve Martinez.

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

Important Banking Notice: Our bank no longer accepts checks written to "Community Church". Checks now must be written to "Leisure World Community Church" or "Leisure World CC".

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.

Kitchen/roof area drain repair help: A separate leak was discovered after the recent rain. If you would like to donate financially (separate from your pledge) toward the new drain/repair bill of \$6400, please use a green envelope and mark "**Drain Repair**" on the envelope and memo line of your check.

Valentine's Day Party: Reminder – If you have signed up to attend the Valentines Day luncheon, the event is scheduled at noon on Tuesday, Feb. 14 in the Fellowship Hall.

Souper Bowl Sunday: The Missions Team annual "Souper Bowl" would like to thank everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl food drive.

*****Note***** if you or a friend/neighbor could use some food items before they are picked up by the food banks, the food will be placed on tables in the Narthex on February 14 and 15. Please bring your own shopping bag.

Lenten Journey begins March 1: The six-week series includes a "Bowl and a Roll" lunch. If you are interested in providing the soup for one of the 6 sessions, please see Sandy Walker or contact her at 714-891-2862.

Southern Journey

MAX LUCCADO
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

In the
FOOTSTEPS
of the
SAVIOR

OWING JESUS THROUGH
THE HOLY LAND

Bowl & A Roll
Wednesdays beginning March 1st @ 11am
Invite a friend to join you on this video journey

Dear Lord, Lead Me Day by Day

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

Words by
FRANCISCA ASUNCION

Traditional Philippine Folk Melody
Arr. by Francisca Asuncion

Dear Lord, lead me day by day; make me stead - fast, wise, and strong;
Dear Lord, lead me day by day; help me fol - low and o - bey
Now with con - fi - dence I sing joy - ous prais - es to our God,

hap - py most of all to know that my dear Lord loves me so.
faith - ful - ly your words of life, that your love ev - er a - bide.
and with up - right heart I give ten - der care and sym - pa - thy.

Refrain
Praise to God, fount of love, praise from morn 'til the set of sun; praise at

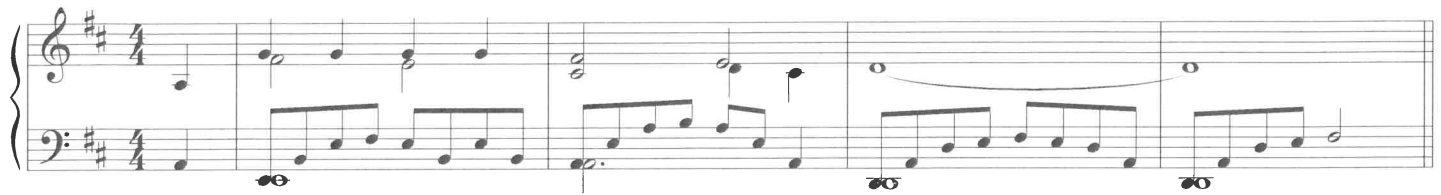
home, praise in church; praise to God ev - 'ry-where on Earth.

Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

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

*Words Adapted from
the Prayer of St. Francis, Matthew 6:12-15*

Music by
SEBASTIAN TEMPLE



6

Musical notation for measures 6-9. The melody is in the right hand, starting with a quarter note G, followed by a half note A, a quarter note B, and a half note C. The bass line is in the left hand, starting with a quarter note G, followed by a half note A, a quarter note B, and a half note C. The lyrics are: "Make me a chan - nel of your peace." followed by a repeat sign and the words "Where Where".

Make me a chan - nel of your peace. { Where Where

10

Musical notation for measures 10-14. The melody is in the right hand, starting with a quarter note G, followed by a half note A, a quarter note B, and a half note C. The bass line is in the left hand, starting with a quarter note G, followed by a half note A, a quarter note B, and a half note C. The lyrics are: "there is hat - red, let me bring your love. Where there is in - ju - there's des - pair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is dark - ness,".

there is hat - red, let me bring your love. Where there is in - ju -
there's des - pair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is dark - ness,

15

Musical notation for measures 15-19. The melody is in the right hand, starting with a quarter note G, followed by a half note A, a quarter note B, and a half note C. The bass line is in the left hand, starting with a quarter note G, followed by a half note A, a quarter note B, and a half note C. The lyrics are: ", ry, your par - don, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in on - ly light, and where there's sad - ness, ev - er".

, ry, your par - don, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in
on - ly light, and where there's sad - ness, ev - er

20

Musical notation for measures 20-24. The melody is in the right hand, starting with a quarter note G, followed by a half note A, a quarter note B, and a half note C. The bass line is in the left hand, starting with a quarter note G, followed by a half note A, a quarter note B, and a half note C. The lyrics are: "you. joy. Oh, Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er".

you. joy. Oh, Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er

Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

25

seek so much to be con - soled as to con - sole,

30

to be un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

35

loved as to love with all my soul. Make me a

40

chan - nel of your peace. It is in par - don - ing that we are

45

par - doned, in giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive,

50

and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life. Oh,

55

Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek _____ so much to be con -

60

soled as to con - sole, _____ to be un - der - stood as to un - der -

65

stand, _____ to be loved as to love with all my soul.

70

Make me a chan - nel of your peace. _____ Where

75

there is hat - red, let me bring your love. _____ Where there is in - ju -

80

ry, your par - don, Lord, _____ and where there's doubt, true faith in _____ you. _____

rit.