

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 *March 26, 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 – Kelly Frankiewicz

Lord God, Great I AM, you are resurrection and life. As we worship you this day show us who we are: bearers of good news, messengers of resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: "Hymn of Promise"

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our voices and be attentive to our prayers.

We pray for those whose hope is lost, who feel dried up and cut off from you. By your grace, open their hearts; that we might reach them and bring them back into relationship.

My siblings, Trust in the Spirit of God. Hope in the Lord. With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to find peace and then to set our minds on life in the Spirit.

We pray for those who are oppressed, held captive by the power of death. Release them from their chains; unbind them and let them go!

My siblings, Trust in the Spirit of God. Hope in the Lord. With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to find peace and then to set our minds on life in the Spirit.

We pray for those who weep, lost and lifeless in fear and regret. Grant them the peace of your presence; show them what your love can do.

My siblings, Trust in the Spirit of God. Hope in the Lord. With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to find peace and then to set our minds on life in the Spirit.

We pray for those who are dying, the light of life fading in their eyes. Help them to believe in you so that they may live and never die.

My siblings, Trust in the Spirit of God. Hope in the Lord. With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to find peace and then to set our minds on life in the Spirit.

We thank you, O Lord, for having heard our prayers. Enable us to trust in you, and thus to see your glory; through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life. Amen.

Anthem: “Halle, Halle, Halle” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Kelly Frankiewicz

O Lord, we wait for you, and in your Word we trust. By the power of your Spirit, set our hearts and minds on the source of life and peace: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

SCRIPTURE : Kelly Frankiewicz

Romans 8:6-11

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

John 11:1-45

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” ¹¹After saying this, he told them,

“Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹²The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” ²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone

was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Message: "From Ashes to Glory: Set Your Mind on the Spirit"

Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

The Gospel of John is filled with stories of polar extremes — something is either this or it is the polar opposite. In the passage this morning those extremes include life and death. Lazarus comes walking out of the tomb, and Jesus says Mary and Martha — Unbind him and let him go. Where are we bound? Where are we dead? What does it mean for us to be called by Jesus, to be unbound and to be released?

Reflection: "Ah, Holy Jesus" Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Kelly Frankiewicz

Without the breath of God, we are dry bones, and without the Word of God, we are dust. With gratitude, let us offer our lives to the Lord of all life.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "In Christ Alone" Lisa Margaroli, *alto*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Kelly Frankiewicz

Holy God, giver of life, we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people, your people in the body of

Christ. As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life, bless and keep you in this life and the life to come.

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:

Care Team: Did you know we have a Care Team? We have been blessed for many years to have a Care Team composed of gifted members of our congregation who visit those unable to participate in weekly worship. If you are going into the hospital, are recently home from the hospital, or are simply recovering from illness at home and would like a visit please, please call the church office and leave a message for Pastor Johan and someone from the Care Team will reach out.

Coffee Fellowship: Flowers are provided by Sandy Walker in honor of March Birthdays, including Ted's on 3/31.

Refreshments are provided by Marylee Thomsen

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

Lenten Journey: The six-week series includes a "Bowl and a Roll" lunch. Please join us on March 29 at 11am for the Lenten video series, "In the Footsteps of the Savior", with pastor and author, Max Lucado. No need to have attended the first session. Join us any week you are able.

Maundy Thursday: Special service of handwashing followed by a Mediterranean themed lunch. Gather in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 am on Thursday, April 6.

Good Friday: The LW Interfaith Council will host the annual Good Friday Service on Friday, April 7 at noon in the Amphitheater. Pastor Johan and Kelly Frankiewicz will present 2 of the 7 last words of Christ. Clergy from the Jewish and Buddhist congregations and other LW churches will also participate in the Service.

Easter Sunday Flower Cross: Please bring fresh cut flowers from your garden to Easter Service on April 9 to adorn the large cross on the patio.