

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 *April 2, 2023*

14000 Church Place
Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

9:50 am
(562) 431-2503

ENTRANCE PROCESSIONAL – “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

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 – Marylee Thomsen

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: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Our Savior comes to us humbly, riding a donkey and proclaiming a message of peace. Let us pray for the church, for Earth and all its creatures, and for all people in need, saying, God of mercy, hear our prayer.

A time of silence may follow each petition.

That Christians hear and share the word of God as true disciples,
God of mercy, hear our prayer.

That all ends of the earth receive the words of the king of peace.
God of mercy, hear our prayer.

That all leaders, of church and of state, prefer humble service to empty power.
God of mercy, hear our prayer.

That all people live with gratitude for the gifts of nourishment, friendship, family, trust, patience, and hope with the courage and wisdom to change whatever fails to be life-giving. **God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

That those who see the cross starkly revealed in their lives draw strength from the name that is above every other name.
God of mercy, hear our prayer.

That we might live with gratitude for our ancestors whose faith and witness have nourished our own, that all who mourn today will be comforted, and that we, who hope to greet Jesus when he comes again, will be ready and filled with joy.
God of mercy, hear our prayer.

God our creator, you show your sons and daughters the way to freedom through the gentle obedience of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Anthem: “Hosanna” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Marylee Thomsen

Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day through the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may enter into the coming Holy Week with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Marylee Thomsen

Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! ²Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. ²⁰This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. ²⁷The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. ²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. ²⁹O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Matthew 21:1-11

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been

spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Message: “From Ashes to Glory: Carry Christ to the World”

Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

As this week unfolds, spend some time each day pondering the mind of Christ. What is the shape of his compassion? Describe the image of such great love. Finally, what does it feel like, physically, to be so utterly cared for?

Reflection: “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” Hannah Yi, *pianist*

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION:

We are pleased to offer both white and red grape juice. If you are afraid of spilling red grape juice, a limited number of cups with white grape juice are provided.

Invitation to Communion - Pastor Johan Dodge

Here at Community Church we celebrate “Open Communion”. Anyone who wishes to commune may come to our Lord’s Table. You do not have to be sinless; God forgives you. You do not have to be perfect; but God is encouraging you to grow. You need not belong to this or any church; God Invites all people to this meal. It is enough to love the Lord and follow Him with all your heart. This is what God asks us to do. Come to our Lord’s Table in faith this day. Go from this place to live, and never be the same again. Let us commune as brothers and sisters in Christ.

[Ushers, please come forward to collect and distribute the elements]

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, who emptied himself into human form to guide us back to you. Through his teaching and his actions, he demonstrated that the time had come when you would save your people. When he processed into Jerusalem on a colt, the people gathered and cried, "Hosanna! Save us!" because he lived your salvific love in our midst. And as the enthusiasm of "Hosanna!" began to dim in the shadow of plots to crucify him, he did not waver in the love and grace he extended to all.

In one of his final gracious and loving acts, on the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, the rejected stone who is the Cornerstone of our salvation, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The Sharing of the Bread

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

The Sharing of the Cup

The bread which we have eaten is a sharing in the bread of Christ. The cup over which we give thanks is the sharing in the cup of Christ.

Unison Prayer

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Marylee Thomsen

Let our hosannas to the one who brings liberation take form in our tithes and offering.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “How Beautiful” Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Marylee Thomsen

God of all good gifts, we thank you for showing us how to care for each other. May these gifts lead to great feasting for those who have no banquets set before them. May these gifts build shelters and places of prayer for those who are homeless. May these gifts proclaim your desire that all your creation live in peace. Give us grateful hearts, O God, in the name of the one who came to draw all people to himself, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

Go in peace, assured of God’s presence with you, with the mind of Christ Jesus as your path and guide, and the constant companionship of the Holy Spirit. Look not to rewards and celebrity for your good deeds. Do unto others what will nurture God’s will for them.

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: Flowers are provided by Mary Granger
Refreshments are provided by Sandy Walker

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

Easter Offering: Please see the attached Easter Offering envelopes. This special one-time gift is to support the life and ministries of Community Church in addition to our usual weekly or monthly offerings.

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.

Lenten Journey: The six-week series includes a "Bowl and a Roll" lunch. Please join us on April 5 at 11am for the last week of the Lenten video series, "In the Footsteps of the Savior", with pastor and author, Max Lucado. No need to have attended previous sessions.

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.



Easter Flowers Given With Love

<u>Donated By</u>	<u>In Memory</u>	<u>In Honor</u>
Marylee Thomsen	Mother, Nell Thomsen	
Mary Granger	Cousin, Richard	Parents
Gerri Seaton		Granddaughter, Anna
Phyllis Spencer	Parents & Husband	
Prince/ Lorna Pierson	Parents. Garth & Maxine Johnson Em & Elizabeth Pierson	
Mary Martinez		Daughter, Karen
Mo Ashley	Don & Rosie Ashley	
Jeanette Williams	Mother, Daddy & Brothers, Gary and Curtis Dean	
Jeff Fishering	Grandmother, Nellie	
Thelma Kieffer	Husband, Bob	
Chong Fleenor		
Jo Rousey	William Rousey	
Joanna Matos	Daughter, Joyce Ann	All the people who helped me during my injury
LWKCC		Friendship with LWCC