

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 9, 2023*

14000 Church Place
Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

9:50 am
(562) 431-2503

FLOWER CROSS PROCESSIONAL: "Lift High the Cross"

John Fluker, *organist*

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

He is Risen

He is Risen Indeed!

He is Risen

He is Risen Indeed!

He is Risen

He is Risen Indeed!

Almighty God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ you broke the power of death and opened the way to eternal life. As the empty tomb stands witness to his triumph over death, make your church to be a bold testimony to his enduring victory in life, that all we do may proclaim to the world, “He is risen, indeed!” Through Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn: “Thine Is the Glory”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Let us unite our hearts in prayer, saying,
God of Resurrection, hear our prayer.

For the Church throughout the world, that as we celebrate the feast of Jesus 'resurrection, we may renew our faith and strengthen our witness in Jesus 'name.

God of Resurrection, hear our prayer.

For pastors, teachers, and ministers, that they be wise in leadership, humble in service, and fearless in the face of evil;

God of Resurrection, hear our prayer.

For the governments of the world and its leaders, that they may practice compassion and reject the politics that use death and suffering as means of control;

God of Resurrection, hear our prayer.

For our planet Earth, that people may be good stewards of its resources and share in its abundance;

God of Resurrection, hear our prayer.

For the poor and the stranger, that they may receive a place of
refuge, hope, and hospitality;
God of Resurrection, hear our prayer.

For the sick and those in distress, that they may find healing for their
pain and be restored to fullness of life;
God of Resurrection, hear our prayer.

For our neighbors, that together we may dwell in harmony;
God of Resurrection, hear our prayer.

For our enemies, that we may love them and be agents of
reconciliation in the name of Jesus;
God of Resurrection, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, receive these prayers we offer, and by the power of
your Holy Spirit use us for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In
his name we pray.
Amen.

Anthem: “Christ Is Risen” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Virginia Olejnik

Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit roll away the stone and
reveal to us the Word of Life. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Virginia Olejnik

Matthew 28:1-10

¹ After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary
Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly
there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending
from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His
appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For
fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the
angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are
looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been
raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go

quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Message: "The Season of Easter: A Love That Cannot Wait"

Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

We have learned in the past two weeks that there are major shifts potentially taking place at the highest level of New Testament scholarship concerning the Gospel of John and Mary Magdalene. We already know from recent excavations that there were women priests in the early Christian churches. How do these recent revelations serve to open your eyes to the ongoing struggle of living into the kingdom of Love that Jesus came to establish? Where do you need to let go of your long held beliefs in light of new information? How does that experience open your mind and heart to further experience and live out the love of God that cannot wait?

Reflection: "Christ Arose" John Fluker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Virginia Olejnik

God has given us life in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In gratitude, let us offer our hearts and the fruit of our labor to God's service.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "Easter Song (Hear the Bells Ringing)" Chris Wade, *baritone*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Virginia Olejnik

Almighty God, by your grace, accept the fruit of our labor and the offering of our lives in union with our risen Lord who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

Receive the good news: Christ is risen. Live the good news: we are free to love as he has loved us.

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 Flucker/Hannah Yi, *pianist*

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Flowers (Easter Lilies) are provided by the congregation. Refreshments are provided by the Fellowship Team

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.

Care Team: Meeting on Wednesday, April 12 at 11:00 am.

Easter Lilies: If you purchased an Easter Lily and would like to bring it home or deliver it to a friend, please pick it up after the Easter Worship Service. See Sandy Walker in the Fellowship Hall. Please do not remove Lilies from the altar.

Polly's Pies Fundraiser: The Missions Team is sponsoring a fundraiser at Polly's Pies in Los Alamitos on Wednesday, April 26 from noon to 4. LWCC missions will receive 20% of proceeds. Please pick up a required flyer from the office or on Sunday mornings. Invite your friends and neighbors and let's fill the restaurant!

LW Interfaith Dinner and Gala: Tickets are on sale for the annual Interfaith Dinner & Gala. The event is April 19 at 6:00 pm in Clubhouse 2. Tickets are \$15 each. Please reach out to Pastor Johan or Kelly Frankiewicz if you have any questions.



Easter Flowers Given With Love

<u><i>Donated By</i></u>	<u><i>In Memory</i></u>	<u><i>In Honor</i></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