

Leisure World Community Church

Lighting A pathway into community

Growing Disciples in God's Love

Sending the Hope and Joy of Jesus into Leisure World

Our Vision: To Be the Lantern to Leisure World

14000 Church Place

9:50 am

Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

(562) 431-2503

Third Sunday of Easter — April 23, 2023

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.

[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 — Taylor White

**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: “Blessed Assurance”

[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 great fifty days of Easter we may renew our faith and strengthen our witness in Jesus 'name.

God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

For pastors, teachers, and ministers, especially our bishop Dotti Escobedo-Frank. our District Superintended Sandy Olewine, that they recognize the risen Christ in Word and Sacrament and lead your church with wisdom, humility, and courage;

God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

For the governments of the world and its leaders, especially President Biden, Governor Newsome; that they may resist the sin of corruption and serve the common good;

God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

For our planet Earth, that all 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 and hope, and that the church may offer the hospitality the first disciple offered to Jesus on the road to Emmaus;

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 we may live together in peace and share in our resources;

God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

For our enemies, that they may receive good things, and that we, your servants, not return evil for evil;

God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, receive these prayers we offer, and by the power of your Holy Spirit make us witnesses to the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

Anthem: “Amazing Grace” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Taylor White

Lord, you opened the meaning of the Scriptures to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and set their hearts ablaze. By the power of your Spirit kindle our hearts as we hear your word proclaimed, that we may receive you with joy. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Taylor White

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ³⁶Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. ²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Luke 24:13-35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and

they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

After Jesus has revealed himself to his disciples and they recognize Jesus for whom he is, Jesus disappears, the disciples are left to look back on their afternoon with Jesus and declare: — Were not our hearts burning within us? As we walk the life of following Jesus, we too will have moments when our hearts were burning within us. Have you had an Emmaus experience?

Reflection: "A Father's Love"

music composed and played by John Fluker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Taylor White

Bountiful are God's gifts to us. In gratitude, let us offer our hearts and the fruit of our labor to God's service.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "With All My Heart" Lisa Margaroli, *alto*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Taylor White

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

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: "Just A Closer Walk with Thee"

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May the grace of Jesus Christ our risen Lord, the love of God who raised him from the dead, and the power of the Holy Spirit who fills the world with new life bless and keep you. Alleluia!

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 are provided by an anonymous donor. Refreshments are provided by Jeanette Williams.

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

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 tear off the attached Polly's Pies flyer and bring it with you to the restaurant. Invite your friends and neighbors and let's fill the restaurant!

The WHOA Group! - Lay Leader, Prince Pierson and Chair SPRT, Taylor White invite all to attend the monthly WHOA Group meeting.

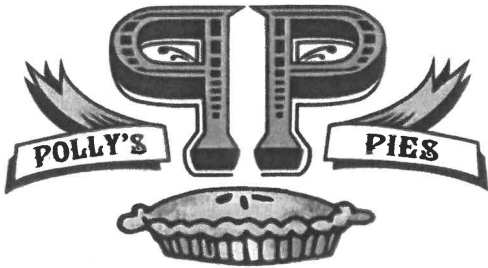
.... TO ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG OUR CONGREGATION! ALL ARE WELCOME TO EXPRESS THEIR IDEAS AND CONCERNS

This month's breakfast tea is planned for **Friday, April 28** at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Belmont Four Concert: Our talented Music Team has formed a new group that sings classic Rock N Roll. The quartet will premiere at our church on **Sunday, April 30** at 3:00 pm. The Belmont 4 is a total blast from the past! This nostalgic acappella doo wop quartet will take you on a sentimental journey back to the 50s and 60s, and will entertain and delight you while singing your favorite American classics like Runaround Sue, Teenager in Love, Dream Lover, Only You and many more! The concert is presented as a great opportunity to welcome all your friends and neighbors! Suggested donation is \$10 per person.

Let's Raise Some Dough!

Dine In or Takeout



LEISURE WORLD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Location:

POLLY'S PIES

**3464 Katella Ave
Los Alamitos, CA 90720**

Date:

**Wednesday
April 26, 2023**

Time:

12 pm — 4 pm

**Polly's will donate 20% of the proceeds to
Leisure World Community Church**
when you bring this flyer and present it to your
friendly Polly's server

No coupons or discounts will apply. Gift Cards and Holiday Pre-Orders not included. Ordering must be off of the regular priced menu. Polly's is proud to support your event. Flyers may not be passed out in Polly's restaurant or in Polly's Parking lot on the day of the event. Thank you for your understanding.

**Attention Polly's Team Member:
Please scan barcode with the
guest check**



982-889-402