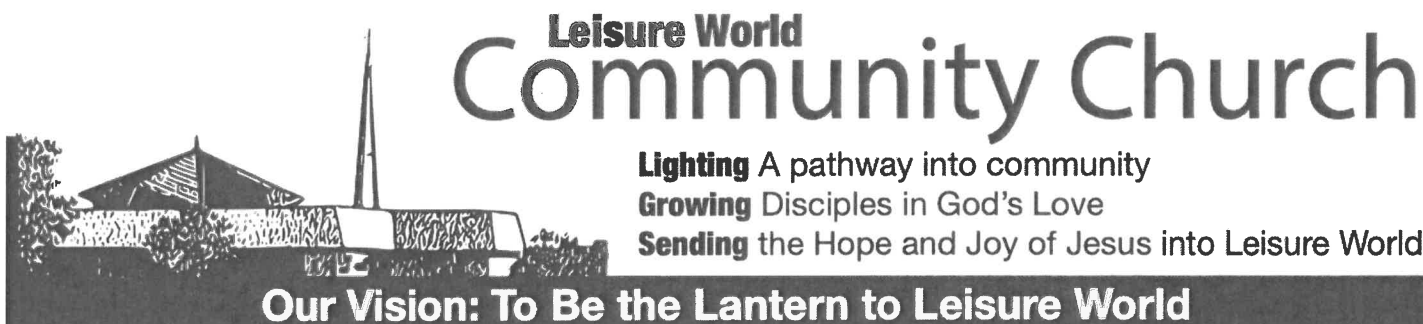




14000 Church Place

9:50 am

Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

(562) 431-2503

Fourth Sunday of Easter — April 30, 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 – Hymn: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Hymn: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Blessed are you, Great Shepherd, who, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, gives us goodness and mercy, leads us down right paths, and restores our souls.

We pray for the whole church, that we may be devoted to your Word and to universal fellowship, being generous to all who have need.

Shepherding God, in a dangerous world,
let us hear your voice and come and go through your gate.

We pray for the earth, for green pastures and still waters, that we may restore them to the goodness and purity that they had at the time that you created them.

Shepherding God, in a dangerous world,
let us hear your voice and come and go through your gate.

We pray for the people of the world, their nations, and leaders, that your wisdom and peace may govern all, so that no one will fear.

Shepherding God, in a dangerous world,
let us hear your voice and come and go through your gate.

We pray for all those in need, for those in want, those ill and those dying, that we may be the banquet that you set before them as we anoint them, feed them, and comfort them in your name.

Shepherding God, in a dangerous world,
let us hear your voice and come and go through your gate.

We pray for ourselves, our families, and those we love. May no one live in fear; may all dwell in your presence.

Shepherding God, in a dangerous world,
let us hear your voice and come and go through your gate.

Blessed are you, Great Shepherd, who, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, gives us goodness and mercy, leads us down right paths, and restores our souls. Amen.

Anthem: "How Great Thou Art" Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Marylee Thomsen

Loving God, we pray that your Holy Spirit will strengthen us to be devoted to the teachings of your Word, that through it we may hear your voice and follow it into eternal life. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Marylee Thomsen

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

John 10:1-10

¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has

brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Message: “The Season of Easter: An Economy That Cannot Wait”

Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

Acts 2:42–47 describes what life was like in the early church. How do these words guide today’s church?

Reflection: “Be Thou My Vision” Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Marylee Thomsen

Church, our God has prepared a table before us and our cup overflows. So let us give generously from our common wealth, as our way of praising God and giving to those in need.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “Shine, Jesus, Shine” Music Team

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Hymn: “Hymn of Promise”

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS - For May 7th

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May the God who calls us by name lead you out to green pastures
and lead you to fellowship day by day in the safety of Christ's fold that
you might invite others with a glad and generous heart.

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 and 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.

***** TODAY *** 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.

Upper Room: Copies of the May-June "Upper Room" devotional are available in the Narthex/Lobby and church office.

Mother's Day Tea: Sunday May 14 immediately following Sunday Worship in the Fellowship Hall. A formal tea service honoring the women in our congregation, complete with finger sandwiches, fresh fruit, and sweet treats will be served.