



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

Fifth Sunday of Easter — May 7, 2023

Opening Announcements — Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div

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, hear what is said 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 — Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 - Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div, Jeanette Williams

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;

for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

take me out of the net that is hidden for me,

for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;

you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies
and persecutors.

**ALL: Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your
steadfast love.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY – Jeanette Williams

Almighty God, in Christ you have shown us the way, revealed to us your truth, and offered to us everlasting life. Keep our eyes upon him, that we may see your path more clearly, know your truth more fully, and receive your life more abundantly; through Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in eternal glory. **Amen.**

Hymn: “Dear Lord, Lead Me Day by Day”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div

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

For the church throughout the world, that all who profess to honor the risen Lord may be faithful in their witness and courageous in their testimony to the way of Jesus;
God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

For our pastor, leaders and ministers, especially our bishop, Dottie Escobedo-Frank. our Superintendent Rev. Sandy Olewine, our pastor Rev. Johan Dodge that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, they may seek to build the church upon Christ, the cornerstone, and humbly lead in faithful service;
God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

For the governments of the world and its leaders. President Biden, Governor Newsome, that the nations may dwell in peace, that good will prevail over strife, and people of faith may freely worship as their hearts direct;
God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

For rain and sun in proper measure, and for abundant food and water for all who dwell upon the earth;
God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

For the sick and those in need, and for any who are oppressed by wounds of the soul;
God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

For our neighbors that we may live together in amity, and that strangers among us may find us to be hospitable friends;
God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

For our enemies, that their sins may be forgiven them and that they may find your peace;
God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, your Son promised to grant whatever we ask in his name. By your Holy Spirit empower us to minister to the world as his faithful disciples that our work may testify to what we pray and show forth your eternal glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Anthem: "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" (with "God Leads Us Along")
Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Jeanette Williams

Lord, as we listen to your holy Word, open our hearts to the power of your Spirit, call us out of darkness, and lead us into your marvelous light. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Jeanette Williams

Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, (Stephen) gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God! "But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation - if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet

chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 14:1-14

(Jesus said) ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going."
⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Message: “Deliverance!” Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div

Questions for Reflection: Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div

In what challenging or threatening situation would you willingly release your body and spirit to God’s deliverance? Whose sin against you do you now need to release from both your own psyche and also from God’s judgement? About what acts of God are you willing to go out on a limb to proclaim? Are you willing, as Jesus did, to abandon yourself to the Lord’s care in anticipation of your death bed?

Reflection: “Jesus Loves Me” Hannah Yi, *pianist*

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION: Prince Pierson, CLM

Leader: These are the elements that Pastor Johan blessed last Sunday and that have been reverently cared for and prepared this morning for our use. Please join me in this modified liturgy for Holy Communion.

*[Communion Stewards, please come forward to collect
and distribute the elements]*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

Leader: 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 your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and

righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war anymore.

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.

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection. You gave birth to this your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

At his ascension you exalted him to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

On the night in which he 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.

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 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.

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.

As people of God, let us offer ourselves and the fruit of our labor for God's work in the world.

Offertory: “Hold On” Chris Wade, *baritone*

Almighty God, receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for your astounding goodness. Make our lives to be an acceptable offering in union with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever.
Amen.

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

May the LORD bless you and keep you; May the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; May the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace as you embrace the Lord's deliverance from all perils. Amen

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 Lewis and Linda Hildreth.

Refreshments are provided by Steve Martinez.

See the sign-up charts to provide refreshments or cover cost of altar flowers.

Altar flowers are \$35. Sandy Walker coordinates arrangements.

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

Mother's Day Tea: 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.

Drive Thru Food Drive: Thursday **May 18** from 10am to noon. A friendly Missions Team member will greet you at your car to offload your donations or you may drop food off your nonperishable food donations at the church office during the weeks leading up to the event. Food will be picked up by the Long Beach Rescue Mission

Dear Lord, Lead Me Day by Day

Transcribed by David Albulario for Leisure World Community Church, Seal Beach, California

Words by
FRANCISCA ASUNCION

Traditional Philippine Folk Melody
Arr. by Francisca Asuncion

Dear Lord, lead me day by day; make me stead - fast, wise, and strong;
Dear Lord, lead me day by day; help me fol - low and o - bey
Now with con - fi - dence I sing joy - ous prais - es to our God,

hap - py most of all to know that my dear Lord loves me so.
faith - ful - ly your words of life, that your love ev - er a - bide.
and with up - right heart I give ten - der care and sym - pa - thy.

Refrain
Praise to God, fount of love, praise from morn 'til the set of sun; praise at

home, praise in church; praise to God ev - 'ry-where on Earth.

Let There Be Peace on Earth

*Transcribed for Leisure World Community Church by David Albulario
with hope for peace and refuge for the people of Ukraine, and for all the World*

Music & Words by
SY MILLER and JILL JACKSON

Flowing rubato ♩ = 100

