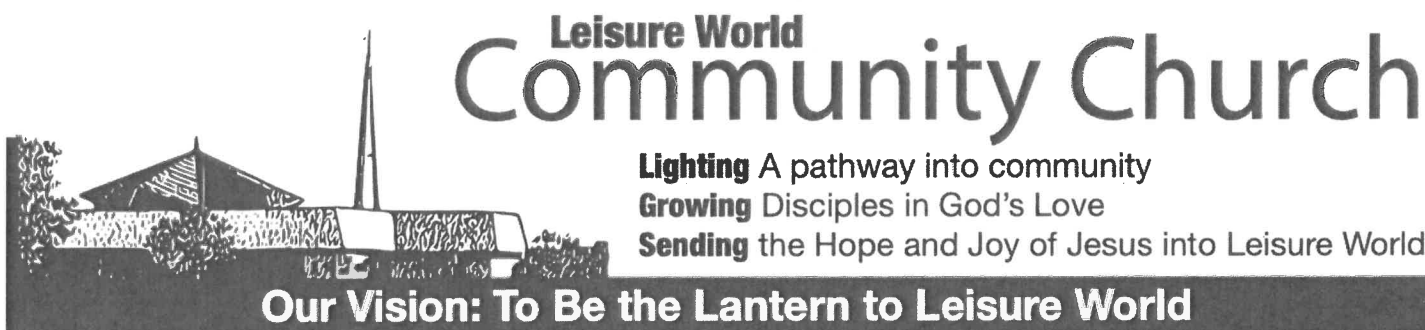




14000 Church Place

9:50 am

Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

(562) 431-2503

Seventh Sunday of Easter — May 21, 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 — Marylee Thomsen

Redeeming God, you call us to be one with you, as you are one with Christ. As his perfect love casts out our fear, and changes it to love, unite us by your Spirit of peace, that we may be one with you, as you are one with Christ. Amen.

Hymn: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Redeeming God, you call us to devote ourselves constantly to prayer for the sake of Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us offer our prayers this day on behalf of your church and the world, saying, fill us with your Spirit's power, that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you. Rescuing God, parent of orphans and protector of widows, you give the desolate a home to live in and lead out the prisoners into prosperity. Help us to order the patterns of our common life to support the health of your human family and the welfare of your world. Fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.

Steadfast God, you have given to your church the inheritance of Christ, and bestowed your Spirit's love upon us to make us one in you. Help us to grow in strength and courage to witness to this hope: that all may find your saving love eternally in Christ. Fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.

Life-giving God, you send rain in abundance to relieve the parched crops and thirsty land, and make clean the winds of heaven. Help us to find sustainable solutions as we seek to honor and care for the well-being of your creation. Fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.

Loving God, you heard the sufferings of your people, listened to our cries, and sent a Son into our world that was no stranger to our pain. Help us to offer your healing and compassion as we minister to others in the mercy of your Christ. Fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.

Resurrecting God, you draw near to those who are sick and dying, and you call them home to you.
May we all know the joy of life eternal shared with you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Anthem: "Shout to the Lord" Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Marylee Thomsen

Spirit of Glory, Spirit of God, bless us with a word of life this day to restore, support, and strengthen us as we seek to be one with you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Marylee Thomsen

Acts 1:6-14

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. ⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

⁶Through Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother, I have written this short letter to encourage you and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. ¹³Your sister church in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings; and so does my son Mark.

¹⁴Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

John 17:1-11

¹After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Message: "Look Down To Look Up" Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

Where have you experienced God's welcome in your life? Where have you experienced God's welcome in your church? If we are to be one with Christ, as Christ is one with God, how can your church become a more compelling witness to God's radical invitation to homecoming?

Reflection: "Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring" John Fluker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Marylee Thomsen

Jesus said to the Father, All mine are yours, and all yours are mine. Therefore, let us offer to God this day our lives and labors in service of Christ's love.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "Sing to the Mountains" Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Marylee Thomsen

Glorious God, everything that is given to us rains forth out of the abundance of your love, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless these gifts and our lives together that all we are and all we offer give glory to you; in the name of Christ, who is the way, truth, and life. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

Siblings, God loves and cares for each of us. Therefore, cast all anxiety on God, and may the abundance of God bless you, the strength of Christ keep you, and the Spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, shine upon you forever.

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 Nancy Westcott in celebration of her 85th birthday.
Refreshments are provided by Jo Rousey.

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

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

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, May 26** at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Pizza With the Pastor: Wednesday, **May 31** at 11am.