



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

Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

June 11, 2023

9:50 am

(562) 431-2503

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 – Virginia Olejnik

Holy God, creator of the universe, author of faith itself, infuse your people with trust so that as you have given life to your people throughout the ages, we too might know the true healing that comes from your steadfast word, through Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

Hymn: “Alleluia, Alleluia”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
Gracious God, hear our prayer.

God of all goodness, we give thanks for the newness you give each of us every day. We thank you for your surprises, for the people you put in our paths to show us new dimensions of your faithfulness.

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for all people of faith, for churches everywhere, for the differing insights into your will offered and proclaimed by many teachers to guide and refresh your people.

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

We thank you for all nations, for racial and ethnic differences, for the variety of languages, foods, and lands you have created. Mold us into people who praise you for the marvels you set before us. Help us not to fear distinctions but to embrace them as your gifts.

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

Soften us, Lord, so that we are able to enter into others' pain. When we are healthy, make us grateful. When we are in need, help us to receive the care of others.

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer: for those who have no home, for all who lack enough food, for people who have no work or work that is not life-giving, for all who live in fear, and for all who hunger for peace and do not know where to turn.

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

We pray for all the needs we name now, silently or aloud.... [silence]

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

Fill us, O God, with your power. Make us whole so that we journey with complete faith. Into your hands we commend all who need our prayers, trusting in your compassion, through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Anthem: "Step By Step" with "Lead Me, Lord" Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Virginia Olejnik

May your word fall into our hearts this day, O God, as breath comes into dust, as water feeds rivers and fields, rich with healing, abundant, alive, and true. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Virginia Olejnik

Romans 4:13-25

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,

¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

²³ Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. ¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax

collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹²But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. ²³When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, “Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread throughout that district.

Message: “I Desire Mercy” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

How are you called to be a blessing to this world? How are we called to be a blessing to this world? How can you be a healing presence in your home, in your community, and in your church? How can we be a blessing, a lantern of divine light and love to the larger Leisure World community?

Reflection: “At the River” Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Virginia Olejnik

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and pay your vows to the Most High.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “I Will Be Here” Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Virginia Olejnik

Lord of all creation, we offer with thanksgiving what is not ours but what we have received from you. Bless these gifts for the sake of our sisters and brothers in this world. Let your word of abundant life go out into all the lands, bringing food and forgiveness, in Jesus 'name. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “How Great Thou Art”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May the One who gives life to the dead, hope to the desperate, and healing to the brokenhearted call you to walk in the way of faith, sure of God's endless and life-giving presence. My siblings, turn to your neighbor with aid, for in seeing ourselves as friends to others, we learn anew each day the meaning of our being the body of Christ.

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: Altar Flowers are provided by Fellowship Team
Refreshments are provided by Carmen Edwards.

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

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

Father's Day celebration: Please join us on Father's Day, June 18 for Worship followed by a celebration of all the men in our congregation. A "manly-themed" lunch will be served.

South Side Jazz Concert - CANCELLED: Due to family illness, the South Side Jazz Concert on **Father's Day, June 18** is cancelled.

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

new Mo Ashley – broken leg is better each day – thanks to God's healing and prayers from friends. Will return from Boston next week.

new Mary Maness – for Mark's health while in Philadelphia assisting with his grandkids. Not sure how long he will be away.