



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 18, 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 — Jeanette Williams

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: "All Are Welcome"

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

From you alone, Lord Jesus Christ, comes the authority to heal the sick, cast out demons, welcome the outcast, and even raise the dead. Therefore we are bold to seek your power and ready to claim your grace.

Heal the sick.... *[silence]*

Touch with compassion all those who suffer; speak the word that will make them whole.

Cast out demons.... *[silence]*

Banish the powers that oppress your people; bring peace to troubled hearts and minds.

Welcome the outcast.... *[silence]*

Open the doors of your church to all; gather the lost and bring them home.

Raise the dead.... *[silence]*

As you broke free from the grave, destroy the power of death forever. Nothing is impossible for you, Christ Jesus. Let these signs of your coming realm be manifest in our world today; for you are our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

Anthem: “True Colors” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Jeanette Williams

Lord God, by your Spirit teach us to obey your voice and keep your covenant so that we may be a priestly kingdom, your holy people; in Jesus 'name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Jeanette Williams

Genesis 18:1-15

¹The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under

the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ¹⁰Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

Matthew 9:35-10:23

³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

¹Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. ¹⁶“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Message: “Welcome — We Come” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

How would you respond to the arrival of wandering messengers of good news in your town or on your doorstep (Matt. 9:35–10:23)?
Would you welcome them or listen to their words? What does it mean for the kingdom of heaven to “come near” (Matt. 10:7)?

Reflection: “Above All” John Fluker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Jeanette Williams

Jesus said: The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.
Therefore we ask the Lord to send us out as laborers for the harvest.
Let us offer the gifts of our lives to the Lord.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “Be Not Afraid” Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Jeanette Williams

Good and holy God, for your steadfast love and faithfulness we give you thanks and bless your name. Let our whole lives become songs of gratitude, joy, and praise so that all the earth may know that we are your people and you are our God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

God of all power and peace, as Jesus sent his disciples out to heal the sick, cast out demons, gather the lost, raise the dead, and proclaim the nearness of your realm, make us ready to go and share the good news we have received; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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 Lewis and Linda Hildreth.

Father's Day Lunch is provided by the Fellowship Team.

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 TODAY: Please join us after worship for a Father's Day celebration honoring 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 Mary Maness – for safe travels and great family time on road trip with son, Mike, to Wichita, Kansas for her birthday celebration and family reunion. Will return around July 15.

new Mary Maness – for Mark's health while in New Jersey assisting with his grandkids. Not sure how long he will be away. He will meet her in Kansas for family reunion.