



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

July 2, 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

Steadfast God, you greet us as a loving parent; and patiently love us beyond all measure. Great is your faithfulness. May we offer that same kindness to all whom we encounter, knowing it is Christ whom we greet as we welcome others. Amen.

Hymn: "This Is My Song"

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

[Silence will follow each petition.]

We pray for the health and welfare of all nations....

We extol your righteousness forever, and by your favor our horn is filled.

We pray for the strength and vitality of your church....

We exult in your name, O God, and sing of your righteousness.

We pray for all who suffer from sickness, hardship, or danger ...

for you are the glory of our strength and our shield in times of adversity.

We pray for the goodness and well-being of your creation....

Your steadfast love is declared forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

We remember those who make their procession home to you this day and live eternally in the light of your countenance. **Unite us in one unending song of praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Anthem: "Way Maker" Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Virginia Olejnik

Loving God, as we hear your Word this day, send your Spirit to equip and inspire us, that your grace-filled hospitality may be the center of our lives. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Virginia Olejnik

Romans 6:12-23

¹²Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one

whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. ²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 10:40-42

⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple— truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Message: “Welcome You, Welcome Me” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

The life and witness of the prophet Jeremiah remind us that in challenging times we often choose denial and despair and resort to easy answers. How can we more faithfully discern God’s will during times of trial in our life, nation, or community? At the expense of comfort, ease, and half-truths, to whom or to what do you turn for the courage to choose justice, hope, and truth, and what is the reward that you seek?

Reflection: “On Eagle’s Wings” Chris Wade, *pianist*

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION:

We are pleased to offer both white and red grape juice. If you are afraid of spilling red grape juice, a limited number of cups with white grape juice are provided.

Invitation to Communion - Pastor Johan Dodge

Here at Community Church we celebrate "Open Communion".

Anyone who wishes to commune may come to our Lord's Table. You do not have to be sinless; God forgives you. You do not have to be perfect; but God is encouraging you to grow. You need not belong to this or any church; God Invites all people to this meal. It is enough to love the Lord and follow Him with all your heart. This is what God asks us to do. Come to our Lord's Table in faith this day. Go from this place to live, and never be the same again. Let us commune as brothers and sisters in Christ.

[Ushers, please come forward to collect and distribute the elements]

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.
Amen.

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 Sharing of the Cup

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.

Unison Prayer

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Virginia Olejnik

Jesus said, Truly I tell you, those who offer a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple will not lose their reward. Beloved, let us offer to God the gifts of our lives and our labor.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “I Will Call Upon the Lord” Chris Wade, *baritone***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Virginia Olejnik**

Faithful God, we give you thanks that you have entrusted us with the gift of hospitality and generosity, and that you have set us free to be generous givers of the gifts you so freely give to us. May our offerings this day draw us closer to you as we share them with others for righteousness 'sake. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”**BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge**

Siblings, you have been given the spirit of freedom and saved for the sake of God's love. Learn the ways of God, for they are the ways of life. Trust in Jesus Christ, the Son, for he is the way to God. Live by

the power of the Holy Spirit and Freely share the love of God in the world. 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 Joanna Matos. Refreshments are 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.

Today, July 2, Pastor Johan re-appointment anniversary and July 4 celebration: A special Independence Day themed lunch of hot dogs, baked beans and all the fixings will be served after Worship in celebration of Pastor Johan's re-appointment to LWCC.

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

July Lantern: The July Lantern Newsletter is available for pick up this morning if you did not receive your copy by mail or email.

Volunteer Sign ups: Volunteer slots are still open if you would like to volunteer to give a little of your time. Please refer to the Volunteer Sign up sheet or contact Virginia Olejnik for details.

Pizza With the Pastor: July 12 at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This is an invitation to anyone who is newer to Community Church and is interested in meeting the Pastor and others in the congregation in a fun and informal setting.

Thelma Kieffer Celebration of Life: Friday, July 14 at 11:00 am

Membership Meeting with Pastor Johan: July 19 at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting is open to all who are interested in exploring the vision and mission of Community Church and connecting in membership to this church family.

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

new Taylor White – recovering at home from neck and back injuries and requests no texts or phone calls at this time. She appreciates our prayers.

new Mary Martinez – recovering from fall. Quick healing of broken big toe and black eye.



Volunteers!

Thank you for signing up for any of the tasks below.
Sandy Walker or Virginia Olejnik will contact you with details of any task you choose.

I'd Love to Help!

LWCC Volunteer Task Sign up		
Task	Time	Volunteer
Weekly		
Assist Joyce Reed with charging Hearing device batteries	15 min	
Check, restock bathrooms - TP/Paper towels, empty trash	10 min	Jon Sofian
Monday am check bathrooms for TP, paper towels, trash	10 min	Jon Sofian
Twice a Month		
Vacuum and dust prayer chapel	15 min	Doug Zantiny
Seasonal		
Assist Sandy with Holiday decorations	1-3 hrs	
Test and change batteries in Christmas Eve candles	1 hr	Jon Sofian
Take out and put away Christmas trees	2-3 hrs	
Other		
Table set up and take down for events/food drives	1 hr	
Reset timers (fountain, etc) after power outages	1 hr	Jon Sofian
Change Emergency Exit light bulbs (must climb ladder)	1 hr	