



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

July 9, 2023

(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 — Phyllis Spencer

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: "Be Thou My Vision"

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

[Silence will follow each petition.]

Help us to trust your Word and accept your invitation to find rest in you. We pray for your church in all of its forms, that we may learn how to follow Jesus by giving rest to the weary in lives of service that are gentle and humble of heart.

Compassionate God, you are good to all.

We pray for the earth and all you have created and love, that all things may come back into the ecological balance that you first intended and all your works shall give thanks to you.

Compassionate God, you are good to all.

We pray for all people, their nations and leaders, that when the burdens of war, poverty, and hunger are too much to bear, we may do our part to offer rest and peace.

Compassionate God, you are good to all.

We pray for all those who suffer violence in the streets and in their homes, that they might find safety and healing. We pray for those who are sick, those suffering mental illness, and those who struggle with moral dilemmas; uphold them and grant them peace.

Compassionate God, you are good to all.

Gracious and merciful God, creator of heaven and earth, we join our voices with all that you have made in blessing you and giving thanks to you, who, with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, show compassion and goodness to all. **Amen.**

Anthem: “We Shall Rise Again” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Phyllis Spencer

Comforting God, by your Holy Spirit lift the burdens from our souls through the reading of your Word for us, that we may learn how easy it is to live in a loving relationship with you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Phyllis Spencer

Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” ²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Message: “My Yoke is Easy” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

What misplaced burdens are you carrying? Where might God be offering you a more well-fitted yoke? Where are your expectations of God and the church unmet? Where do you sense God moving in hidden ways?

Reflection: “Amazing Grace” Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Phyllis Spencer

Siblings, God is faithful and gracious to us, upholds us, and raises us up. Let us show our thanksgiving by giving generously to support ministries that ease burdens and give rest to those in need.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “Split the Sea” Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Phyllis Spencer

Compassionate God, we ask that you bless and multiply these gifts, that they may be used to proclaim the glory of your kingdom and make known to all people the power of your saving acts. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May the God who feels compassion for all lead you to find the yoke that is easy and the burden that is light. Grow to know love in your life and the peace that comes from living with a gentle and humble heart so that you may offer rest for those who are weary and heavy laden.

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 and refreshments are provided by Jenny Chang.

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 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 Signup 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.