



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 23, 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 – Taylor White

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: “Dear Lord, Lead Me Day by Day”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

[A time of silence follows each petition.]

Mother-Father God, thank you for making us children, coheirs with Christ, siblings of one another, bearing witness with the Spirit that we are the children of God. We pray for the whole church, that in the field of this world, it may be the good seed that grows into your harvest.

We pray for your whole creation that is waiting in eager longing to be set free from everything that holds it in bondage.

We pray for earth's people, its nations and leaders, that all may come to know the ways that lead to peace.

We pray for those who are ill and for those who are facing death, that they may find hope in the faith that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory to be revealed to them.

We pray for those we know and love, that they may see the bond between them and you and that, wherever they go, you are with them. Blessed are you, eternal Presence, who, with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, lead us to life everlasting. **Amen.**

Anthem: "You Are My All in All" Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Taylor White

Harvesting God, as we listen to your Word, by your Holy Spirit lead our hearts in the way everlasting.

SCRIPTURE : Taylor White

Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” ³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them

into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Message: “Fool’s Gold” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

How has your understanding of the relationship between suffering and faith (or vulnerability and trust) changed over time? What experiences of God’s grace do you need to acknowledge and anoint?

Reflection: “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Taylor White

Friends, Holy Scripture tells us that all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. Given such a divine affirmation, let us give offerings of thanksgiving! Amen.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “Once and for All, Lisa Margaroli, *alto*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Taylor White

Loving and ever-present God, receive these tithes and offerings, our worship, and our lives to your service; in Jesus ’name. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May God our parent, Christ our sibling, and the Spirit who gives us breath bless you and keep you this day as you continue living in hope and confident in God’s faithfulness.

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 the Fellowship Team. Refreshments are provided by Jeanette Williams.

See the sign-up charts to provide refreshments or cover cost of altar flowers. Altar flowers are \$35. Sandy Walker coordinates arrangements.

Pastor Johan family vacation: Kelly Franiewicz M.Div will lead worship on July 30. Rev. Lynn Munson-Francis will lead worship and communion on August 6. We are grateful to Kelly and Rev. Lynn for providing the opportunity for Pastor Johan to get away.

PRAYER REQUESTS

IN CELEBRATION:

- new Marv Jahn & Ella Walton – dropped by and reported they are settled and happily engaging at Rowntree Gardens. They welcome visitors. Rowntree Gardens, 12151 Dale, Bldg. D, Rm 306, Stanton, CA 90680 phone: 714-971-6786
- new Taylor White – health is improving. The congregation was happy to see her at Thelma's Celebration of Life and Worship on 7/16.

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

- new Mary Maness – she and Mark adjusting back into routine after long road trip to Kansas.
- new Sandy Walker – safe travels and refreshment with family in Winnipeg, Canada. She will return in September.