



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 30, 2023

(562) 431-2503

Opening Announcements — Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div

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 is said 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.

Responsive Psalm: Kelly Frankiewicz, Jeanette Williams

Psalm 105:1-5, 45b

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,

People: make known his deeds among the peoples.

Leader: Sing to him, sing praises to him;

People: tell of all his wonderful works.

Leader: Glory in his holy name;

People: let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Leader: Seek the LORD and his strength;

People: seek his presence continually.

Leader: Remember the wonderful works he has done,

People: his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

ALL: Praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE DAY – Hymn: – “Seek Ye First”

Hymn: “Be Thou My Vision”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div

[Silence will follow each petition.]

Jesus invites us into the life he shares with you Holy God.

Receive us now in our frailty, our complacency, our desire.

We pray for your church all over the world, that we would be seed and yeast where life has grown barren and heavy.

May the life we discover in you bind us to each other and to the world you love, for no need is beyond the strength of your call, and no child of yours is expendable.

We pray for friends and strangers in the grip of addiction.

Make us able companions for each other, and bless us with hope that bears fruit.

We pray for unsettled economies and those whose needs are overlooked in the choices of the powerful.

May we, who know so much privilege, bear our responsibilities with open hearts and open hands.

We pray for all who stand at the thresholds of life: for your children who are soon to be born and your children who are soon to go home.

We give thanks for new faces to love, ideas to ponder, work to do— and we marvel at the sturdy friendships and persistent memories that sustain us when the way is hard. May each be a reminder of your love and your provision.

We pray for our leaders, our teachers, and mentors.

Give strength to leaders who call forth the best from us and invite us to breathe together.

Holy One, keep calling us into the world—your world— as seed and yeast and treasure.

Equip each of us for the challenges we will face until we learn to worship in the most unlikely places, for you are the source of our song and the well from which we pray, wherever we are planted.

By the power of your Spirit, we make our prayer with resurrection hope, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Anthem: “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Jeanette Williams

Spirit of life, we do not know how to pray as we ought. Meet us in words written, in words spoken; intercede for us with sighs too deep for words, until we shine with the hope that is hidden in our hearts, for we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Jeanette Williams

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor

depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Message: "All Things Work Together for Good" Kelly Frankiewicz MDiv.

Questions for Reflection: Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div

For what challenging situation in your life will you give thanks anyway to assure God you believe that "All Things Work for Good"?

This week, with whom will you share what little you know of God's love and greatness?

How could your witness spread reverence for God like yeast in our community?

To what cost are you willing to go to acquire God's wisdom?

Reflection: "Got the Whole World in God's Hands" Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Jeanette Williams

The apostle Paul promises that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. We trust that God will bring forth good from that which we offer today. It is our privilege to participate in the unfolding of God's grace in the world. Let us give with grateful and expectant hearts.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "Shout to the Lord" Music Team

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING– Hymn: "Now Thank We All Our God"

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: "Blessed Assurance"

BLESSING: Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div

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, *baritone*; John Fluker/Hannah Yi, *pianist*

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Altar Flowers and refreshments are provided by Steve Martinez.

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

Pastor Vacation: Pastor Johan is traveling with family and will be absent from worship on August 6. Rev. Lynn Munson will lead worship on August 6. We are grateful to Rev. Lynn for providing the opportunity for Pastor Johan to get away.

August Lantern: If you did not receive your copy of the August Lantern by mail or email, copies are available at the sign in table.

Worship CD's: Our very own talented musician, John Fluker, has several Piano instrumental CDs for sale (\$10/each) including "Hymns of Peace" and "The Sound of Peace" (NAR Best New Artist Award). John also has CDs which feature his vocals including "J is For Joy" (Christmas CD). Please see John after Worship on August 6th for details

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

new Pastor Johan and family – safe travels and great family time while on vacation.