



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

August 6, 2023

9:50 am

(562) 431-2503

Opening Announcements — Rev. Lynn Francis

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: – Virginia Olejnik

**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: “Let Us Break Bread Together”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Lynn Francis

[Silence will follow each petition.]

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
O Lord, attend to our cry, give ear to our prayer.

God who hears us, holds us, and helps us, you are our eternal source of blessing. You are our endless source of provision. In your compassion, you see our need; you heal our sickness and satisfy our hunger. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and all in need:
O Lord, attend to our cry, give ear to our prayer.

For our siblings called by your name throughout the world,
O Lord, attend to our cry, give ear to our prayer.

Bless your church and help us move forward in mission with you.
O Lord, attend to our cry, give ear to our prayer.

For the healing and preservation of your creation in heaven and on earth,
O Lord, attend to our cry, give ear to our prayer.

For the need of the nations— wisdom for leaders, vindication and relief for the oppressed.
O Lord, attend to our cry, give ear to our prayer.

For those who are hungry, ill, vulnerable, or seeking refuge from adversaries and injustice,
O Lord, attend to our cry, give ear to our prayer.

For all who need you, near and far, especially those we name now, aloud and in our hearts ...

[A moment is given of you to name those in need of the Presence of God either silently or out loud]

O Lord, attend to our cry, give ear to our prayer.

For the faithful who have preceded us and in whose steps we follow,
O Lord, attend to our cry, give ear to our prayer.

Wondrously show us your steadfast love, that we may behold your face in righteousness and be satisfied, when we awake, beholding your likeness; through Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen.**

Anthem: “At the Table of the Lord” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Virginia Olejnik

Providing God, by your Holy Spirit feed us with your Word, that we might be filled with the bread of life. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE : Virginia Olejnik

Philippians 4:4-9

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

John 15:5-11

⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

Message: “Together for Joy” Rev. Lynn Francis

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Lynn Francis

What gives you joy? How can you lean into your faith in order to increase your joy? Who can you be in service to in the coming week or month to share God's joy?

Reflection: "Simple Gifts" Hannah Yi, *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 – Rev. Lynn Francis

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

God has been generous in providing for our needs. Let us give back a portion of what has already been given to us.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “On the Willows” Chris Wade, *baritone*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Virginia Olejnik

Loving and generous God, you provide for us and even bless us in more ways than we can number. We give these tithes and offerings to tell of your wondrous and steadfast love so that those who do not yet know you may also come to your love. Amen

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

BLESSING: Rev. Lynn Francis

Life-changing God, you have touched us and transformed us to reach out to all who hunger for what only you can give. Keep our feet in your paths and bless us to go out now and be a witness in all that we say and do.

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 are provided by the Fellowship Team. Refreshments are provided by Mary Maness.

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 is leading Worship this morning. 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.

Gift from Thelma: Thelma Kieffer's family would like to share some pieces of her clothing with her church family. If you would like a memento from Thelma's closet, please help yourself from the items on display in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall on the coat rack next to the food bin on August 6.

Membership Meeting with Pastor Johan: August 16 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. New members will be welcomed into the congregation on Sunday, September 10.

PRAYER REQUESTS

IN CELEBRATION:

new Nancy Wescott – Son in law's mom, SuZan, moved to Oregon with family.

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

new Mara Williams – long awaited surgery is scheduled on 8/9. Prayers for a speedy and uncomplicated recovery and restored health.

new Nancy Westcott – dear family friend, Shannon DenBraber, continues next phase of cancer treatment.

new Kelly & Ted Frankiewicz and granddaughter, Alexandra – safe travels and family time in France 7/31-8/13.

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