



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 13, 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 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: — Jeanette Williams

Holy God, you speak to us in a voice unexpected and come to us in ways we do not recognize. Never leaving us to our own devices or defenses, you are the ever-present, all-powerful God. Call us out in faith again and again, until we learn to walk with you in steadfast love and faithfulness, and in peace. In the name of him who comes to us upon the waters, Jesus the Christ. Amen

Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

God of power and love, you are with us in every circumstance of this life. We thank you for your steadfast faithfulness.

We thank you for the gift of your peace, which comes to us even in times of chaos and fear, trouble and doubt.

We thank you for your powerful arms of mercy that grasp us when we are sinking; for your powerful Word that coaxes us even when we are hiding and afraid.

We ask for your power and love to overwhelm the chaos of the nations. In every place of war, send your encompassing shalom to restore and repair all that is torn and broken.

Give us faith and courage to follow Christ so closely that divisions are dismantled, reconciliation is accomplished, and love casts out all fear.

Increase mutual understanding and a sense of unity with our neighbors, in our mutual in this community, in this congregation, and in all of your very good creation.

In our personal relationships, bring healing where there is estrangement and hurt.

In our relationship to your creation, give us creativity and perseverance as we work to be faithful, tender stewards of all that you have so wondrously made.

We entrust to your providence and care all those who suffer; all who are hiding from you, from others, or even from themselves because of fear or feelings of unworthiness.

To one struggling with doubt, increase faith. To one enduring persecution or prejudice, bring freedom. For those caught in the grip of anxiety and uncertainty, grant the calm rest that your peace alone gives. And for all who face illness, pain, or even death, we pray for restoration and wholeness to fill them—in heart, mind, and body.

Gather us up and set us in safety, and we will praise your name. We ask all things in the name of Jesus Christ, who truly is your Son. **Amen.**

Anthem: “Gospel of Grace” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Jeanette Williams

Gracious God, your word is very near, on our lips and in our hearts. As this Word is read and proclaimed, by the power of your Holy Spirit, make it become in us the word of faith. Then send us in joy to bring this word to others who also need the good news of salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Jeanette Williams

Romans 10:5-15

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Matthew 14:22-33

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it

is I; do not be afraid.” ²⁸Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Message: “Stepping Out in Faith” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

Where have you stepped out in faith in your life? What was the result? Where have you been asked to step out but have resisted? What will it take for you to say yes to God?

Reflection: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Jeanette Williams

Because God cares for all without distinction Rom. and is generous to all beyond measure, so we, God’s people, are to care for all with generosity and gladness. We bring our offerings to be used for God’s good purposes in the church and in the world.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “Be Still and Know” Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Jeanette Williams

Generous God, we thank you for your call and claim upon our lives. Because there is so much more we can become, and so much more we can do, we pray that our faith will increase; that our practice of generosity will be enlarged; and that our joy in believing will encourage others as we share with them the good news of Jesus Christ; in whose name we pray. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “All Are Welcome”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May the steadfast love and faithfulness of God surround you; the peace of Christ enfold you; and the Holy Spirit encourage you to step out in faith, trusting that the God who has called you is able to keep you from falling and holds you in love.

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 Taylor White and Mo Ashley.

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

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

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

- new Mara Williams – Surgery went well. Her daughter is in town for a few days to care for her at home. Prayers for a speedy and uncomplicated recovery and restored health.
- new Alvin Knowles – just diagnosed with prostate cancer. A course of treatment will be decided soon. He appreciates our prayers.
- new LW resident, Dan Davis – facing major health problems.
- new Jon Sofian – sister, Rita, undergoing 11 rounds of radiation treatments, is feeling much improved and is now able to mildly care for grandkids. Prayers for complete healing.