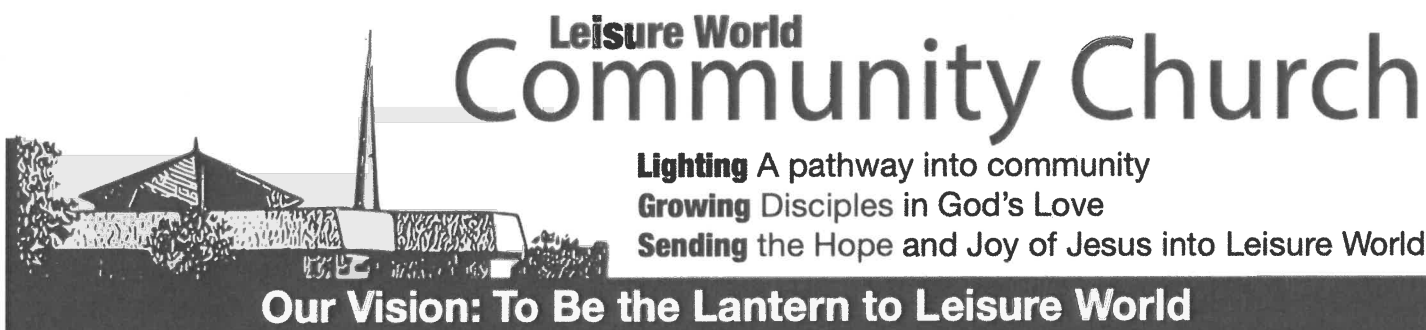




14000 Church Place

Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

September 10, 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: – Kelly Frankiewicz

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: “Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

God of grace and steadfast love, increase in us, we pray, the capacity to love you and our neighbors without reserve and to love even those who harm us.

We thank you for calling us to live honorably with one another and pray for your grace as we try to do all that you require of us.

We remember before you those who are at odds with one another in families, in neighborhoods or offices, and even in the church. We pray for nations in the midst of internal or external struggles and conflict. Teach us, O God, to seek nonviolent ways toward resolution. **Help us to speak the truth and to listen with understanding when perspectives are far apart. We pray for love to bring peace into every troubled heart and place.**

We remember before you those who have physical needs today. People who are hungry and thirsty; people who are exhausted by the demands of work or caregiving; people who are sick, or undergoing surgery; and people who live with chronic pain. Bring relief and rest, we pray.

We pray for love to bring peace into every troubled heart and place.

We remember those weighed down with needs of heart and soul. A worry that keeps us awake at night, grief that accompanies us everywhere we go, depression that clouds us, or an addiction that grips us. Lift all of these heavy burdens with the light and peace of your presence, we pray.

Sustain us over the long journey toward health and give us trust in you, ourselves, and those who love us.

We remember before you not only our cares, but also our joys— a birthday celebrated, an anniversary enjoyed; new members joining

We thank you, O God, for the gift of laughter, for enduring friendships, and for cherished memories. We give thanks that with you there is always a new beginning, a way where this is no way, hope beyond hope, and life beyond death. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who conquers all that would defeat us and gives us new life. Amen.

Anthem: “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Kelly Frankiewicz

Awaken our hearts and minds to your Word, O God. Give us understanding so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we are able to do all that you command for love’s sake. Gathered in Christ’s name, gathered around the Word, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Kelly Frankiewicz

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything

you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Message: “Now is the Moment to Wake From Sleep” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

In Paul’s Letter to the Christian communities in Rome, he suggests that now is the time to wake from sleep and he suggests that how we treat one another — the love we share with one another is a sign of the light of God at work within us. Where are you being challenged to do more to let the love of God flow through you?

Reflection: “Be Still My Soul” John Fluker, *pianist*

BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP VOWS — New Members

Melinda Cowan
Jo Rousey
Sandy Cardot
Jenny Chang

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE – Rev. Johan Dodge

*[Those who will be baptized and join the congregation
please come forward at this time.]*

Siblings in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ’s holy Church. We are incorporated into God’s mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God’s gift, offered to us without price.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

– Rev. Johan Dodge

Do you in the presence of God and this congregation renew the solemn vow and promise made at your baptism? **I do.**

Do you truly and earnestly see God working in your lives in ways that transform your actions and help you bring about God’s desired kingdom here on earth? **I do.**

Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments? **I do.**

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to keep God's holy will and commandments and walk in the same all the days of your life as faithful members of Christ's holy Church? **I do.**

Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, and this congregation we call Leisure World Community Church and uphold us by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness? **I will.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER – Rev. Johan Dodge

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Eternal God: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

This day, we take water from the Jordan River where Jesus was Baptized and combine it with the simple tap water of Seal Beach to reveal the truth of our life in God's creation — we are ever always more than we seem.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, may this sign of your love carve out selfishness and fill us with loving kindness throughout our lives as we live into your call to be the body of Christ.

BAPTISM – Rev. Johan Dodge

To Melinda

Do you desire to be baptized in this faith? **I do.**

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

– Rev. Johan Dodge

Those who have been baptized are invited to touch the water and take a heart as the Pastor lays a hand on each and says:

Jenny, The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may bring the love of God into the world around you. Amen.

Jo, The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may bring the love of God into the world around you. Amen.

Melinda, The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may bring the love of God into the world around you. Amen. .

Sandy, The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may bring the love of God into the world around you. Amen.

[Presentation of certificates]

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM – Rev. Johan Dodge

Individuals are invited to come forward to touch the water and take a heart as a reminder of their reaffirmation to the Lantern of God's Love to Leisure World.

Baptism Reflection: "I Surrender All" John Fluker, *pianist*

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME – Rev. Johan Dodge

Siblings, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day receive into the membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

ALL:

We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy Church and bid you welcome to this congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the ways that lead to life eternal.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Kelly Frankiewicz

Paul's counsel to the church in Rome was this: "Owe no one anything, except to love one another." So come, let us love one another and all in God's world by sharing what we have been given so that needs are met and the gospel is proclaimed.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "Earth and All Stars" Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Kelly Frankiewicz

God of our salvation, we know what time it is— time to wake from sleep and to turn from selfishness. We offer now our time, our talents, and our resources to be used for your good purposes and all for love's sake. Through Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: "The Gift of Love"

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

The love of God pursue you; the grace of Christ overtake you; and the Holy Spirit flow through you, as love fills all in all.

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 Flucker/Hannah Yi, *pianist*

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

- new Alvin Knowles – Is feeling good, had a blood draw on 9/5 an appointment with his doctor on 9/12 to discuss the course of treatment. He appreciates our prayers.
- new Mary Granger – prayers for a peaceful transition as she leaves LW and moves on Oct. 1 to Wisconsin to be near her sister.
- new Joyce Gregg – is in Hospice Care at Alamosa Belmont Rehab, prayers for God's perfect peace and comfort and for her and her family.
- new Mary Maness – is taking one pill/day. Will follow up with her oncologist in 2 months. It's going well so far.

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Altar Flowers are provided by Sandy Walker. Refreshments are provided by Lewis and Linda Hildreth.

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

September Lantern Newsletter: The September Lantern is available for pick up before Sunday Worship on Sept. 10 if you did not receive your copy by mail or email.

Welcome New Members: Today is a a special worship service as we welcome new members, Sandy Cardot, Melinda Cowan, Jo Rousey, and Jenny Chang into the Community Church family and as a church family we renew our baptismal vows.

Christmas Bazaar Crafting Parties begin: everyone is invited to join in on the weekly "crafting parties" that will begin on September 13 at 11 am in the Fireside Room. You are welcome to bring your own crafting ideas, or to help cut, assemble, and work on pre-designed craft projects. All materials and instructions will be provided. Most importantly, the goal is to offer a time of fun and friendship where we gather weekly to work toward a fun event for the church we love.

Farewell Mary Granger: join us as we honor and say goodbye to Mary Granger on September 17 after Worship in the Fellowship Hall. Mary faithfully served Community Church in various roles on the Leadership Board, as Liturgist, in the financial office and as a dear friend to so many. She will be greatly missed.

September Directory: The updated Community Church directory is available for pick up in the Narthex on Sunday or from the church office during the week.