



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

September 17, 2023

9:50 am

Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

(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: — Virginia Olejnik

God, our source and our salvation, in love you made us and by love you have redeemed us. Make your love for us bear fruit in our forgiveness of others, that in this life we may know your all-embracing compassion and in the world to come receive the everlasting joy of fellowship you share with your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: "Wade in the Water"

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Let us pray to the Lord, saying, **Loving God, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer the violence of war or natural disaster. Bring an end to violence that destroys human flourishing; help us to live in peace with our neighbor and enable us to dwell in harmony with the earth.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

Loving God: We pray for those who are sick or in trouble. Heal their disease, relieve their distress, and return to them the joy of salvation.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who depend upon the support of others. Protect the vulnerable, shelter the weak, and give strength and wisdom to those who care for them.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for elected officials and for civil servants. Stir up in them a desire for justice, enable them to fulfill their responsibilities with integrity, and drive from them any spirit of selfish gain.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for pastors, teachers, superintendents and bishops, and all the saints who lead your church. Grant them wisdom to know your truth and give them courage to live as faithful disciples of Jesus.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

Loving God, you have crowned us with steadfast love and mercy.

**Receive our prayers and help us to trust your goodness;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Anthem: “Joyful, Joyful” Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Virginia Olejnik

Holy God, your Word is love and leads our feet to walk in your ways. Bless and guide us with your Word through the power of your Holy Spirit; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Virginia Olejnik

Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his

fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Message: "Why Do You Pass Judgment on Your Neighbor?"

Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

Why is it so easy for us to pass judgment upon those around us and so difficult for us to look at our own lives self critically? How can we experience forgiveness and allow our forgiveness to carry over into how we live with those around us?

Reflection: "Because He Lives" Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Virginia Olejnik

Let us give as God has so abundantly given to us.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "Sing a New Song" Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Virginia Olejnik

Almighty God, receive these gifts that we offer with grateful hearts and use our lives for the ministry of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

The blessing of God be with you as you go in peace. The love of Jesus be with you as you practice forgiveness. The power of the Holy Spirit be with you as you live the Gospel of Good News. Now and forevermore.

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 Mo Ashley - preparing for heart surgery/Aneurism in the Aorta. Surgery will be in October.

new Gerri Seaton – My 33 old granddaughter, Anna, was in a serious motorcycle accident in Arizona and will never be able to return to work. She is appealing her case for Disability's rejection. She greatly appreciates your prayers.

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Altar Flowers and Refreshments are provided by the Fellowship Team as we honor and say farewell to Mary Granger.

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

Farewell Mary Granger: join us as we honor and say goodbye to Mary Granger on this morning 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.

Christmas Bazaar Crafting Parties: everyone is invited to join in on the weekly "crafting parties" this Wednesday, September 20 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.

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.

Pizza With the Pastor: September 20 at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This is an invitation to anyone who is newer to Community Church and is interested in meeting the Pastor and others in the congregation in a fun and informal setting.

LWKCC BBQ, Sept 24: Pastor Yong and the Leisure World Korean Community Church extended an invitation to Community Church to attend their annual Church BBQ at Clubhouse 1 at 12:00 noon.