



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 24 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: — Phyllis Spencer

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: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

God of unending mercy and steadfast love, we are grateful that you are slow to anger, for there is much in this world that is wrong and set against your purposes.

Overcome our many injustices with your justice; overtake our lust for revenge with your great mercy.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for nations locked in enmity to be set free from old patterns and to embrace a new way of relating.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for people who wield economic power to take notice of those whom you notice and to have compassion for those who are vulnerable.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for day laborers and the unemployed and the homeless. Inspire us who have enough to share what we have, not in measured and resentful amounts, but gladly, abundantly, so basic needs do not go unattended.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gather up the first and the last, the least and the greatest, in the common work of your kingdom, until there is no more first or last at all, for all are one in your name.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Help us all to see not only your grace at work in the world, but also your humor at work among us, the holy laughter that heals us and helps us see ourselves rightly.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We thank you for the privilege of believing in Christ, of living in Christ, and of living for Christ. In all things, at all times, we give thanks to you, who never lets us go; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Anthem: "God Covers Me" Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Phyllis Spencer

Let the wisdom of your Word rain down on us like manna and feed us, that we may be strengthened to do the work to which we are called, for the glory and honor of your name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Phyllis Spencer

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16

¹"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Message: "The Cost of the Cross" Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

In Matthew 20:1–16, we find some resentful of God's generosity toward the "undeserving." and the landowner asks the grumbling all-day workers: "Are you envious because I am generous?" How does this story of God's generosity invite us to think about our own lives?

Reflection: "Were You There?" Chris Wade, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Phyllis Spencer

Whether we have much or only a little, we can share our daily bread so that all will be fed. As we have received, so now we give, in the vineyard of the Lord, our tithes and offerings.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "From A Distance" Lisa Margaroli, *alto*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Phyllis Spencer

God of the harvest, we are privileged to be counted among those whom you have called, graced to have been given your work to do, blessed to receive more than we will ever earn. Accept, we pray, our thanksgivings and offerings, and do what you choose with what already belongs to you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: "God Will Take Care of You"

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May the generous grace of Christ attend you, the astounding love of God find you, and the surprising movement of the Holy Spirit guide you to go out this day practicing God's strange generosity toward others, sharing the good news with them, and rejoicing in their well-being that you, too, may be well.

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*

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

- new Pastor Johan and family of his uncle who tragically passed away in a surfing accident in Crystal Cove.
- new Alvin Knowles – Had PET Scan. Will begin new treatment program next week, no chemo or radiation. He appreciates our prayers.
- new Baudy Stillwell – Hip replacement surgery in August. She is back in the hospital receiving treatment for a deep hip wound. She appreciates phone calls.

Notes and Announcements:

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

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

Christmas Bazaar Crafting Parties: everyone is invited to join in on the weekly “crafting parties” this Wednesday, September 27 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.

LWKCC BBQ today: 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.

Concert Sunday Oct 1 at 3:00: Come for an afternoon of lively entertainment as “#TheAccidentals” a quartet featuring our staff musicians, Dave Albulario, and Chris Wade present a free concert. Invite your friends and neighbors. A free will offering will be accepted.

61st Anniversary Celebration: LWCC will celebrate its 61st Anniversary on Sunday, October 8 after Worship in the Fellowship Hall. A Luncheon will be served.