



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

October 15, 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: — Jeanette Williams

**Holy God, you set before us every day a bounty of good things.
Bring us to your feasting table, hungry for your Word, eager to
rebuild the cities you have made, and ready to receive strangers
so that we celebrate at all times and in all places the peace which
is life in you. Amen.**

Hymn: "Now Thank We All Our God"

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

That all in our community may know what is God's and what is Caesar's, and may have the courage so to live,
hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

That as the Lord guided Cyrus for the sake of Israel, God will guide our country, its leaders, and its citizens,
hear us, O God; your mercy is great.
That justice and peace will be the signs of our trust in God,
hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

That the church, in the spirit of Paul, may preach the gospel not merely in words but in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit,
hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

That each of us, following Jesus, may be truthful, courting no one's favor, but living with simplicity and honesty,
hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

That like the apostle, all the people in the church may live their faith and labor in love for the poor, the homeless, the imprisoned, the persecuted, and the sick, and that by God's power the suffering of all creation may be relieved,
hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

That wherever there is violence, especially within a family, we may be enabled to confess our part in allowing this darkness to continue. We have shut our eyes to the bruises and shut our ears to the cries of fear and pain. That your healing may come to all homes,
hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

That we may remember with gratitude the witness of those who have kept faith in your triune name,
hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

Into your hands we place the well-being of all creation, trusting that you see and know the needs of all, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Anthem: "What A Friend We Have in Jesus" Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Jeanette Williams

Your word, O God, is a feast all its own. Let your Holy Spirit open our minds to your call to listen, for we know your holy Word heals and reconciles your people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Jeanette Williams

Philippians 4:1-9

¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. 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.

Matthew 22:1-14

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and

gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Message: “Living as a Guest at the Banquet of Grace” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

Each day this week, ponder the attributes in Philippians 4:8 and make your own list of what to set your mind on toward living in thanksgiving. On Monday, meditate on whatever is true; Tuesday, whatever is honorable; Wednesday, just; Thursday, pure; Friday, pleasing; Saturday, commendable. On Sunday, consider what is excellent and worthy of praise.

Reflection: “I Love to Tell the Story” Chris Wade, *pianist*

Discipleship Moment: Stewardship — Virginia Olejnik

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Jeanette Williams

Because God has given you a great banquet, let your thanksgiving overflow with joyous giving for the sake of others.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder” Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Jeanette Williams

God of compassion and generous love, we give you thanks for the riches of Earth, which sustain our lives and which you have created for our joy. We thank you for Jesus, whose life, death, resurrection, and ascension renews our strength and revives our hope. We give you thanks for the Holy Spirit, who comes among us, invites us to dine with each other and with you, and keeps us in faith. Bless these gifts for the sake of those in need

**and the work of your church. In peace, we pray our
thanksgiving. Amen.**

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. Do not worry. With thanksgiving, speak to God your needs and the needs of this world. Ponder what is pleasing and excellent. And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, encourage your hearts and your minds to rejoice always in Christ Jesus.

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 Mo Ashley - preparing for heart surgery/Aneurism in the Aorta on October 17.
new Joyce Gregg – is in Hospice Care at Alamos Belmont Rehab. She’s still with us and is
in good spirits - prayers for God’s perfect peace and comfort and for her and her
family.

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Altar Flowers are provided by Joanna Matos. Refreshments are provided by are provided by Jeanette Williams

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, October 18 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.

Pizza with the Pastor: October 18 at 11am 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 an informal setting and to explore the vision and ministry of Community Church.

New Vaccines available: Updated vaccines are now available. Consult your doctor or pharmacist.