



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 22, 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: – Taylor White

Holy God, you have made us in your image, and we belong to you alone. Therefore we offer ourselves to you, in service, love, and praise. Use us for the glory of your realm and the good of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Lord God, with gratitude for all your goodness,

We come to you in prayer.

For our family and friends, for our sisters and brothers in faith, and for the world of nations you have made.

Remember those who are dear to us.

Wrap your steadfast love around them, sustain them in times of trouble, and keep them always in your care.

Remember the church of Jesus Christ.

Encourage us to proclaim the Good News of God's Love, strengthen us in our conviction, and empower us to be agents of love in the world.

Remember the family of nations.

Send out your Spirit to renew the earth, welcome all people into your community, and let your love be known in all the world.

To you, O God, Maker of heaven and earth,

through the power of the Holy Spirit, in the grace and peace of Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Anthem: "Step by Step" with "Lead Me, Lord" Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Taylor White

Holy One, true and living God, through the message of the gospel and the power of your Spirit make us imitators of the Lord: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Taylor White

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Message: “Give to God What Is God’s” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

This week, set aside some time to take inventory of your life. Consider your spiritual gifts. How do you use them in the service of God and others? Consider your material goods. How do you make use of these possessions?

Reflection: “Holy, Holy, Holy” Stephanie Kim, *pianist*

Discipleship Moment: Stewardship

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Taylor White

The Lord made the heavens, and all the earth belongs to God. As Jesus taught us, let us give to God the things that are God's own.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "In Christ Alone" Lisa Margaroli, *alto*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Taylor White

All honor and majesty, strength and beauty are yours, Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth. Let these simple offerings we bring be a sign of the great glory that is due to your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

Go forth this day in the grace and peace that flow from God, have been shown to us in the Son, and flow through us in the power of the Holy Spirit. Declare God's glory among all the nations — even if those nations are your mutual and the one next to you. And may God's wonderful work may be known to 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 Fluker/Hannah Yi, *pianist*

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

- new Julie Cook and family – father, Jim Cook passed away very suddenly at age 91.
- new Mo Ashley – Recovery from heart surgery/Aneurism in the Aorta on October 17.
- new Alvin Knowles –Will begin a changed treatment program on Nov 6. 5 days of radiation.
He is feeling good and expressed how he appreciates our prayers.

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Altar Flowers are provided by Marylee Thomsen. Refreshments are provided by Betty Ku.

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 25 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.

All Saint’s Day: Please see the included Remembrance Card. If you would like to have a loved one included in the remembrance on November 5, please provide the name of the loved one who passed since last All Saint’s Day on November 6, 2022. Place the completed slip in the offering plate.

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