



Our Vision: To Be the Lantern to Leisure World

14000 Church Place

October 29, 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: – Hymn “Make Me A Channel of Your Peace”

Hymn: “Wade in the Water”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Holy God, you have provided all we have needed. You have walked alongside us as we have journeyed through wilderness and valley and climbed to the heights of the mountain.

For people of faith in every land, in every religion, and in every home,
We have glimpsed the promised land, here, but not yet.

For the church of Christ, Holy God, hear our prayer. For world leaders, peacekeepers, diplomats, and government workers,
We have glimpsed the promised land, here, but not yet.

For trees and plants, creatures large and small, for pets and working animals, for oceans, winds, and soil,
We have glimpsed the promised land, here, but not yet.

For farmers in this harvest time, for those who fish and hunt, for those who ship and store what is gathered, and for those who cook and serve,
We have glimpsed the promised land, here, but not yet.

For all else the church is concerned with on this day ... [silence for the assembly members to speak aloud or silently their petitions],
We have glimpsed the promised land, here, but not yet.

For all that we have not named but which you know, O Lord, we trust that you will hear our prayer in the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior.
Amen.

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Kelly Frankiewicz

Lord Jesus, your understanding of Scripture astonished and humbled all around you. Send your Spirit to illumine this Word that our understanding and wisdom may be increased. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Kelly Frankiewicz

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

¹You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or

with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Matthew 22:34-46

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’” ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” ⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’? ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Message: “How Does Loving Our Neighbor Love God?” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

Recasting and Reframing the world around us is the Good News that Jesus came to teach us and building the new Kindom is the work that he called his followers, his disciples to engage in. One of the simplest ways that we can build the Kindom of God amidst the Kingdoms of this world is to show love to our neighbors. Where are challenged to show love your neighbors? Where are you challenged to let your neighbors show you love?

Reflection: “Simple Gifts” Hannah, *pianist*

Discipleship Moment: Stewardship

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Kelly Frankiewicz

With thanksgiving for the bounty of this earth, the work we have been given to do, the joy of sharing so that others may also live, we gather our gifts at this time, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “How Great Thou Art” *quartet*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Hymn “Amazing Grace”

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

Beloved family of God, be gracious and kind to all. May the Lord lay loving hands upon you and empower you, that you may be strengthened to continue to share the love of God with your neighbors.

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 Family and Friends of Joanne Allison – passed peacefully on 10/19, 1 day before her 93rd birthday.

Mo Ashley – Recovery from heart surgery/Aneurism in the Aorta on October 17.

Notes and Announcements:

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

Refreshments are provided by Phyllis Spencer.

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, November 1 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 prepare items to sell at the Christmas Bazaar on December 1-2.

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.

November Lantern Newsletter: Copies of the November Lantern newsletter are available for pick up this morning if you did not receive your copy by mail or email.

Upper Room: The Upper Room devotional for November and December is available this Sunday morning at the check in table or the racks in the Narthex. Copies are also available in the Church Office.

Sock It To 'EM sock drive for Veterans: postponed until January due to the busy holiday schedule. Details will follow.