



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

9:50 am

Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

November 5, 2023

(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

In life and in death you bless us, O God. When trouble overwhelms us, you save us. When sorrow overtakes us, you comfort us. When death overcomes us, you overcome death and raise us to new life. You promise us joy everlasting and, even now, give us glad hope and glimpses of your realm, which is to come when Christ makes all things new. For calling us your children and bestowing upon us such great love, we give you thanks, in Jesus 'name. Amen.

Hymn: "For All the Saints"

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Eternal God, author of our past and promise of our future, we lay before you our private fears and our concerns for the world, knowing that you hear our cries. Especially today we pray for those whom Jesus called blessed:

for the poor in spirit ...

Pour out your blessings upon them and us that we may be your hands to strengthen them in every hardship and together be joyful of every blessing.

for those who mourn ...

Pour out your blessings upon them and us that we may be your hands to strengthen them in every hardship and together be joyful of every blessing.

for the humble and meek ...

Pour out your blessings upon them and us that we may be your hands to strengthen them in every hardship and together be joyful of every blessing.

for those who thirst and hunger for righteousness ...

Pour out your blessings upon them and us that we may be your hands to strengthen them in every hardship and together be joyful of every blessing.

for the pure in heart ...

Pour out your blessings upon them and us that we may be your hands to strengthen them in every hardship and together be joyful of every blessing.

for those who show mercy and those who make peace ...

Pour out your blessings upon them and us that we may be your hands to strengthen them in every hardship and together be joyful of every blessing.

for those who are persecuted because of Christ ...

Pour out your blessings upon them and us that we may be your hands to strengthen them in every hardship and together be joyful of every blessing.

We call to mind before you all those who have finished their course in faith and have helped to make us who we are in you:

those who taught us the faith ...

those who spoke your truth in the face of evil ...

those who cared for the weak and the suffering ...

and those whom we loved and cherished the most ...
Thank you that their pain is ended and their joy made complete.
Covenanting God, in baptism you claim us and show us how to live.
Through Jesus Christ, our Brother, Redeemer, and Lord. Amen.

Anthem: "That's What Love Is For" Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Virginia Olejnik

In your Word, O God, show us heaven. By your Spirit, show us truth;
through Christ, the Living Word, in whom we see your face. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Virginia Olejnik

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

⁹You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. ¹¹As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, ¹²urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Matthew 5:1-12

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Message: “That’s What Love is For” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

This week’s readings describe the coming realm of God and the realm of God is at hand if we we would reach out and bring it into fruition. How might God be calling you to bring the Kindom of God into the kingdoms of this world?

Reflection: “Pie Jesu” Chris Wade, *pianist*

Discipleship Moment: Stewardship – Prince Pierson CLM

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION: World Communion Sunday

We are pleased to offer both white and red grape juice. If you are afraid of spilling red grape juice, a limited number of cups with white grape juice are provided.

Invitation to Communion (Pastor Johan Dodge)

Here at Community Church we celebrate “Open Communion”. Anyone who wishes to commune may come to our Lord’s Table. You do not have to be sinless; God forgives you. You do not have to be perfect; but God is encouraging you to grow. You need not belong to this or any church; God Invites all people to this meal. It is enough to love the Lord and follow Him with all your heart. This is what God asks us to do. Come to our Lord’s Table in faith this day. Go from this place to live, and never be the same again. Let us commune as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Miriam and Moses, God of Joshua and Deborah, God of Ruth and David, God of the priests and the prophets, God of Mary and Joseph, God of the apostles and the martyrs, God of our parents and caregivers, God of our children to all generations. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People: (Sung Response)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might,
Heav - en and Earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith

People: (Sung Response)



Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

[Ushers, please distribute the elements]

The Sharing of the Bread

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

The Sharing of the Cup

The bread which we have eaten is a sharing in the bread of Christ. The cup over which we give thanks is the sharing in the cup of Christ.

Renew our communion with all your saints, especially those whom we name before you—

Thelma Kieffer

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Jim Cook

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Joanne Allison

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Carmen Rowland

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

April Roe

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Virginia Skinner

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Betty Conway

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Cliff Willequer

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Gertrude Armijo

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Luise Pölzl

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Charllie Guggino

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Sally Springer

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Jim Clement

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Elnora Knowles

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

John Berdanis

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Clem Hendrickson

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

James Knowles

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Olive Dugas

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Connie Regener

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Denis Goble

Absent from the Body present with the Lord.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Virginia Olejnik

How can we withhold our gifts of gratitude in the face of such wondrous love? With glad and generous hearts, let us bring our pledges and our offerings to God.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “I Will Remember You” Chris Wade, *baritone*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Virginia Olejnik

We magnify your name, O God, and together exalt your name, for you are so good to us and gracious beyond measure. In this life you lead us, comfort us, guide us, and redeem us in countless ways. In death you usher us to even greater blessing, bringing us through the great ordeal, embracing us in your endless light, and welcoming us to your table of goodness and plenty. These gifts we bring are but a token of our thanks, our pledges this day are seeds to be planted for the growing of your kingdom here and now in our midst. In Jesus 'name we pray. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May the God of hope empower you, the teachings of Christ guide you and the love of God flow from the Holy Spirit through you until we meet again.

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 –heart surgery/Aneurism surgery projected as soon as her sister, an RN, arrives to help care for her.

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship:

Refreshments are provided by Sandy Cardot.

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 8 at 11 am in the Fireside Room. The last crafting day is November 15. The Christmas Bazaar is scheduled December 1-2.

Advent Study: The weekly study "Advent is for Action", led by Pastor Johan, will begin on Thursday, November 9 at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

LW Interfaith Potluck: The Fall PotLuck Salad Dinner will be Thursday, November 16, 5pm in CH4. LWCC is especially asked to bring jello salads, but if you'd rather bring a different salad, that's OK. Please let Kelly know by text or phone call to 714-475-9401 to plan for seating and salad variety. LWKCC will be attending also as well as several other churches and synagogues.

Annual Conference Nov. 17: The all-church annual business meeting is scheduled in person at 11:00. Everyone is invited to attend.

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.