



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

November 19, 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 – “Advent 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.

Rejoice! Revoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT– “Wonder”

Sandy Cardot, Patty Jo Schmitz

Leader: Children of light, because we belong to our Lord Jesus

Christ, we need not fear— but can instead approach God's very good creation with wonder and delight.

Leader: We light this candle as the Candle of Wonder.

People: Shine your light upon us , O Lord; and by your Spirit let us see your wonder. For your justice outruns our sense of fairness; your love overwhelms our deepest affections. Open

our eyes, unstop our ears, and show us your most excellent way; for Jesus' sake.

Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
O God of wonder, awaken us to your new world.

We pray for all leaders and people of the world that we may expose the powers and principalities of injustice and work together to build your reign of peace.

O God of wonder, awaken us to your new world.

We pray for all who yearn for your light to break forth in places of sickness, toil, or danger, that we may find our way to your glorious realm through our love for one another.

O God of wonder, awaken us to your new world.

Your coming is the dawn of a new day that brings hope and healing to our lives. Fill your church with the light of your love that we may be still and know that you are God and stand in wonder of your majesty.

O God of wonder, awaken us to your new world.

Rouse us to live in this present age in light of our hope for your return. Inspire us to encourage each other to tend the earth and to press harder than we think we can to work toward your new creation.

O God of wonder, awaken us to your new world.

Give us the courage to acknowledge human frailty, limitation, and even death, with confidence in your eternal plan. For we dwell forever in light with you, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. **Amen.**

Anthem: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Marylee Thomsen

Come, Holy Spirit, open our minds and hearts this day, that we may be illumined by your living Word and walk together as children of light. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Marylee Thomsen

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put

you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Message: "Workers of Wonder" Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

Human beings have been graced with the gift of persistence, imagination, and the capacity for extraordinary accomplishment. We have even been given life-giving gifts. If we believe that Jesus is with us to the end of the age we need not fear. How does that change the way we live?

Reflection: "The Coventry Carol" Chris Wade, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Marylee Thomsen

In giving to God, we grow closer to God. Let us offer our life and labor to the One who draws near and freely gives the treasure of eternal life in Christ.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Marylee Thomsen

O God of wonder; you are our home and dwelling place forever. Thank you for giving your people a gift beyond all value, the treasure of eternal life. Bless our gifts that we offer you this day.

With them may we share your love with others, that all may open their minds to see this life with new eyes of wonder. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

Encourage one another and build each other up, faithfully working together for the kingdom of God, and may the God of creation work wonders in you by the power of the Holy Spirit, 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 Flucker/Hannah Yi, *pianist*

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

new Amelia – lovely woman attendant at the St. Andrews gate – recovery after discharge from the hospital.

new Sandy Walker – Son in law, Jeff, has surgery on 11/21.

new Alvin Knowles – the second of 5 radiation treatments is on Nov. 20. He is feeling good and appreciates our prayers.

new Mo Ashley –heart surgery/Aneurism surgery last week. It went well. Her sister, an RN, is caring for her. Please not phone calls, but prayers and cards are appreciated.

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Altar Flowers are provided by Carmen Edwards. Refreshments are provided by the Fellowship Team. See the sign-up charts to provide refreshments or cover cost of altar flowers. Altar flowers are \$35. Sandy Walker coordinates arrangements.

Advent Study: The weekly study “Advent is for Action”, led by Pastor Johan, meets on Thursday mornings at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. The group will not meet on Thanksgiving Day, November 23.

Crafting pricing and set up: Craft creating is finished. We now need to price, set up and prepare the items for the Bazaar. Please join us on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 11:00. Everyone is invited, even if you were not one of the elves that created the items.

Thankful Tree: Spend some time in prayer reflecting on the ways that God has blessed you this past year. Jot that note of gratitude on a leaf and stick it to the tree in the Narthex. Leaves will also be available to fill out in the office to be mounted on the tree.

Hanging the Greens: We would love to have everyone join us as we decorate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for Christmas on Tuesday, November 28 at 11:00.

Charge Conference booklet: Copies of the annual Charge Conference meeting booklets are available for pick up in the Narthex for those who were unable to attend the meeting on November 17.

Your help is requested: In preparation for the Christmas Bazaar, please see below opportunities to serve. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall or you may contact Sandy Walker or Virginia Olejnik.

- Bake cookies or treats to be sold at bake sale
- Bring in donations for “Grandma’s Attic” before 11/30
- Help at the event: set up - work a station - clean up
- Loan a Nativity set for display (not sell) at the event. Bring in by 11/28 for Patty Jo to set up the Nativity display in the Narthex.



Nov 19, 2023

GROW.PRAY.STUDY

Notes from the Service

My Prayers this week

Prayer Journal

Use these prayers in your time with God each day.

Household Prayer: Morning

I give thanks this day for the gift of Christ and the privilege to follow in his way. This is the greatest life-giving treasure that I am called to steward; may I share this as freely as I have received it from the One who gave himself for the life of the world. May I be continually awakened to your love this day. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

Loving God, you have shown us the ways of justice and nurtured us with love. I confess that I have not lived up to your calling to love those around me. In those places that I cling to fear and forget to trust in your love for me, forgive me. Guide me as I seek to walk in the light, respond with kindness and live in equity and peace; through Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God, I do not like to confront what I cannot control; I shrink before my own limitations and human frailty. Help me to trust in your steadfast constancy and know that your sovereign goodness is all that I need. Teach me to number my days so that I may grow wise in heart, knowing that, no matter their length, I dwell in you eternally. Amen.

Did you know?

This is the Second Sunday of the new Christian Year. Our Advent Theme is "The Best is Yet to Come" which comes from the promise of God in the birth of Jesus. Jesus changed everything!

Our Theme for the year is: "God's Judgment is Love"