



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

December 31, 2023

9:50 am

Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

(562) 431-2503

Opening Announcements — Kelly Frankiewicz, M.Div

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 – “Christmas Doxology”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.

Praise God, all creatures here below, the blessed incarnation.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Hymn - “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Kelly Frankiewicz, M.Div

As children of God and heirs of the promise, let us pray to the Lord, saying,

Loving God, hear our prayer.

For the holy church of God, that all who have been baptized into Christ may shine like the dawn, bear witness to the Good News of

Jesus, and light the way of salvation in Jesus 'name, let us pray to the Lord:

Loving God, hear our prayer.

For the nations of the earth, that governments and those in authority may protect the vulnerable, shelter the oppressed, and pursue the way of peace, let us pray to the Lord:

Loving God, hear our prayer.

For our city and for all places of human interaction and livelihood, that kindness may abound, compassion prevail, and harmony endure, let us pray to the Lord:

Loving God, hear our prayer.

For the planet earth, our home, that we may honor her gifts, respect her limitations, and protect her resources, let us pray to the Lord:

Loving God, hear our prayer.

For those troubled with illness, hardship, or conflict, that they may receive healing for their bodies, release from their burdens, and mending of their brokenness, let us pray to the Lord:

Loving God, hear our prayer.

Hear us, O God, for our eyes have seen your salvation. Let your light shine through us and fill the world with the radiance of your love revealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns in glory. **Amen.**

Anthem: "Good Christians All, Rejoice" Music Team

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Taylor White

As you led Simeon to embrace the infant Jesus, guide us, Holy Spirit, by your gracious light that we may welcome your saving Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Taylor White

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that

the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Message: “Songs of Celebration” Kelly Frankiewicz, M.Div

Questions for Reflection: Kelly Frankiewicz, M.Div

Isaiah rejoiced in the LORD because he felt clothed in righteousness and salvation.

Mary, surprised by divine selection for pregnancy, praised the LORD for anticipated blessings.

Simeon and Anna rejoiced in God's fulfillment of a bucket list item.

When has an unexpected change in your life turned out for the good?

How can you express your gratitude to the LORD?

What song of celebration comes to your mind when you think of Jesus' birth or ministry?

Reflection: “Joy to the World, the Herald Angels Sing!”

John Flucker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Taylor White

As the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so will God cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. With thankful hearts, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” Quartet

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Hymn – “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

BLESSING: Kelly Frankiewicz, M.Div

Go forth into the world rejoicing. Spread the good news of Christ our light and our redeemer.

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 Nancy Rees – Will be relocating to Assisted Living in January. Prayers for peace and an easy transition.
- new Joyce Gregg – on hospice but improved since Pastor Johan visited before Christmas. Prayers for God’s perfect peace and comfort and for her and her family.
- new Phyllis Poper –is on hospice care and improved since Pastor Johan visited before Christmas. Visitors are asked to set appointment with Anchie at 562-637-6628, address: 2218 Conquista, Long Beach..

Notes and Announcements:

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

Poinsettias: If you purchased a poinsettia, you may pick yours up after the 12/31 Worship Service.

Upper Room: The January-February copies of the Upper Room devotional is available in the Narthex and the Church office.

January Lantern: Copies of the January 2024 Lantern Newsletter are available in the Narthex if you did not receive your copy by email or mail.

Church Conference on January 14: Adjourned Charge Conference will be held January 14th to approve the budget for 2024. Conference will be Officiated by Pastor Johan during fellowship following morning worship.

2024 Offering Envelopes: The monthly offering envelopes for 2024 are available for pick up in the Narthex. Please see Virginia Olejnik if you have any questions.