



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

January 14, 2024

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 – Marylee Thomsen

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn: “Be Thou My Vision”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Let us pray for all the earth, the church, and all those in need,
saying,

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the world: for leaders of nations, that wisdom and integrity will prevail for the good of all people, especially the poor; for regions torn by conflict, that peace may reign and living become an enterprise of construction rather than destruction;

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all people of faith: for the unity of the body of Christ, that divisions might not turn people away from the church; for Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, and Jews, that wherever prayers are raised up, the one God of all will hear; for all people who nurture life in the name of a greater good;

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our own nation: for the president and Congress, the Supreme Court and all judges, for state governments, city councils, school boards, and all who have power to make policy, that all consideration be given to what is most healthy for people and creatures;

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those in need: for all who are hungry in our nation and world, for those who have no home and no employment, for those who are either unjustly or justly imprisoned, for parents and children who live in fear for any reason, and for all who are in mourning;

God of grace, hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember all those who have shaped us in your ways, O God. Receive our prayers and grant whatever you see that your people need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Marylee Thomsen

By your Holy Spirit, O God, open our ears, our eyes, our hearts, and our minds to the Holy Word so that it comes to rule within us for Jesus 'sake. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Marylee Thomsen

John 1:43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Message: "What Can You Hold When You Let Go?" Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

Where, in what place, and through what person or persons do you hear the call of the Lord? Have you said yes to God's call? What are the stumbling blocks, impediments, distractions or attachments that are preventing you from more fully following Jesus?

Reflection: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" John Flucker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Virginia Olejnik

Jesus promised that you and I will come to see heaven opened and angels dancing in splendor. Our offerings are a thanksgiving for these gifts. Open now your hearts and share your possessions so that the church's work is made strong for the sake of this needy world.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “It Is Well With My Soul” Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Marylee Thomsen

**Bless in every way, O Lord, the gifts of the people here given.
Enrich the ministries of your people and make us grateful to be
able to let go of the things we do not, finally, own. Amen.**

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

Listen to the word of the Lord as you move through your days. Trust that the Holy Spirit will guide your choices. See in each person you meet one for whom Jesus gave his life. And may the peace of Christ go with you this day and always.

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 Gerri Seaton – recovering well after fall on Sunday. A hospital visit was not needed.
new Friends and family of Joyce Gregg. She passed away peacefully on January 6 after
months on Hospice. A graveside service is being planned.

Notes and Announcements:

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

Church Conference Today: Adjourned Charge Conference will be held this morning to approve the budget for 2024. Conference will be officiated by Pastor Johan during fellowship following morning worship.

Fans available: The church fans that were used in the Sanctuary prior to the installation of the AC, are available for purchase today and next Sunday. \$10 each.

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

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.



GROW.PRAY.STUDY

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Prayer Journal

Use these prayers in your time with God each day.

Household Prayer: Morning

As I rise this day, O God, I give you thanks for breath and life, for the people I will see today, for family, neighbors, and friends, and for those whose ways are challenging to my serenity. Help me to give thanks especially for the people who pull me to new understandings and show me sides of life that I have not known or do not welcome. Urge me to follow you today; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

You invite me, O God, to live in your ways, and you give us to each other to know and to love as we journey in this life. Show me your will for all creation. Help me to listen to your guidance with a prayerful heart so that I may honor what you have made, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

As the evening comes and the time for rest draws near, O God, I give you thanks for another full and mystifying day. I have not done everything I had hoped to do. I have not forgiven myself or others as I ought. I ask now that you, who know me through and through, will lead me to let go of what I cannot change and seek anew tomorrow for a more enlightened path. I long for your guidance and your care. Guard my sleep, and let me rise renewed; in Jesus'

My Prayers this week