

**COMMUNITY
CHURCH** LEISURE
WORLD

LIGHTING
A pathway into community

GROWING
Disciples in God's Love

SENDING
The Hope and Joy of Jesus

Our Vision: To Be Love to Leisure World

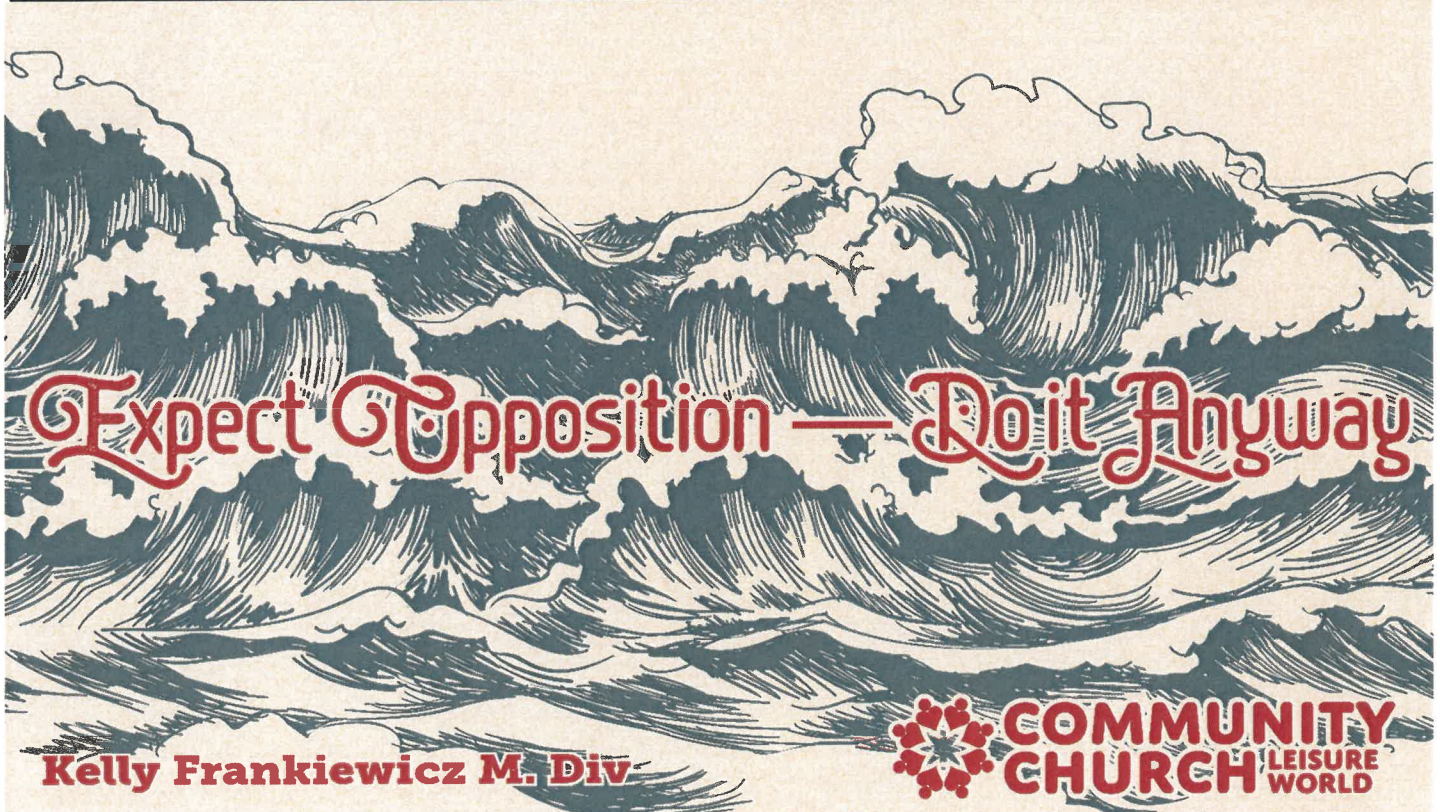
14000 Church Place

Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

February 18, 2024

9:50 am

(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]

OPENING WORDS – Kelly Frankiewicz M. Div

From water to wilderness: **God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.**

On stone and in hearts: **God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.**

From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

We follow Jesus on the Lenten path, for where he is, we would be also.

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 CONFESSION – Phyllis Spencer

God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you set before us. Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil in its many guises and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near. In covenantal love, remember us, we pray, and be for us, once more and always, an ark of safety and new life. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS — Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div

People of the covenant: God does not remember us according to our sins and transgressions. God remembers us according to God's own steadfast love! The God of our salvation teaches us right paths and leads us in truth. When we put our trust in God all the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.

Hymn: “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div

Steadfast God, thank you for sheltering us in the storms of life. Thank you for ministering to us through angels seen and unseen in times that test us. Thank you for claiming us as a people beloved forever.

Because of your great love and care for us, we trust you in our brightest joys and deepest needs.

We rejoice when dark clouds of trouble are overtaken by the light of your presence and new possibilities, when things settle down after a time of tossing about, when the great storm is over, and when the promise of resurrection life takes hold in us with sure and certain hope. Hear our prayers, we ask, for the deep needs of the world.

In places of violence and warfare, give us the courage to lay down our weapons of death and promote life and well-being instead.

We rejoice when dark clouds of trouble are overtaken by the light of your presence and new possibilities.

In places of drought and fire, bring rains that make the earth colorful and verdant again.

We rejoice when dark clouds of trouble are overtaken by the light of your presence and new possibilities.

In places where the waters overtake their boundaries, allow the overflowing chaos to recede.

We rejoice when dark clouds of trouble are overtaken by the light of your presence and new possibilities.

Loving God, in life and in death, we belong to you. So in the midst of life, we entrust ourselves to your care.

We are bold to ask for help when we are confused, lost, or afraid. We are eager to ask for healing for our bodies and minds, whether wounded, ill, or recovering. And we are unceasing in our prayers for those we love who are far from us physically, emotionally, or spiritually.

In the midst of death and grief, even though we are weary, we return again and again, praying for comfort, for an easing of the pain that comes from loss, and for the light of your presence to pierce the present darkness.

As the heavens were torn open at Jesus 'baptism, and the curtain in the temple was torn at his crucifixion, so now tear open anything that divides us from you or hides your presence in our lives or in the church.

We desire to hear your voice of love, to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and to see you clearly. Lead us to serve others faithfully as disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Hymn: “Shall We Gather at the River?”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Phyllis Spencer

Gracious God, in rushing waters and in dry wilderness, in every season and circumstance, we need your sustaining word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, proclaim the good news among us today so that we may repent and believe and see anew how the time is fulfilled and the kingdom has come near, in Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Phyllis Spencer

Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Message: “Expect Opposition — Do It Anyway” Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div

Questions for Reflection: Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div

The phrase “kingdom of God” — {Kin-dom of God} occurs fourteen times in the Gospel of Mark. Jesus’ baptism, then, is not only a religious act, but is also a political and economic one. In what ways does your baptism into Christ make claims on your political, social, and economic practices as well as your religious practices? Where have you shied away from Kin-dom building action because you expected opposition?

Where might you take a next small step toward building God’s Kingdom on earth?

Reflection: “Lord, I Need You” Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Phyllis Spencer

Because we believe that in Jesus Christ, God's time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near, we respond in tangible ways. By doing acts of justice and compassion and by sharing our resources, we bear witness to the good news of the gospel. The offering is received in gratitude to God.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "Christ, Be Our Light" Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Phyllis Spencer

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we are humbled as we try to do what is right and to walk in your ways. Receive, we ask, these offerings, and use them for your own good purposes in the church and in all creation. We pray in Jesus Christ. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

BLESSING: Kelly Frankiewicz M.Div

May the God of covenant faithfulness enfold you; the beloved Son encourage you; and the Holy Spirit descend upon you in blessing; this day and forever.

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*; Dave Albulario, *tenor*; John Fluker/Hannah Yi, *pianist*

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

- new Mary Maness – cancer pills were not effective. Will meet with surgeon in 2 weeks.
- new Nancy Westcott – dear family friend, Shannon, cancer spread to liver and lungs and now into terminal brain cancer. Prayers for comfort, peace, and provision for her and her 12-year-old son, Liam.
- new Nancy Westcott – new neighbor, Rue, heart surgery was a great success.
- new Kelly Frankiewicz – friend's sister, Debbie, healing of her chest ailments, for accurate diagnosis, effective treatment, and calming of fears.

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Altar Flowers are provided by Mo Ashley. Refreshments are provided by anonymous.

See the sign-up charts to provide refreshments or cover cost of altar flowers. Altar flowers are \$35. Sandy Walker coordinates arrangements.

Souper Bowl Sunday was February 11. If you didn't have the opportunity to participate last Sunday, please come to Sunday worship prepared with **new men's or women's socks** to deposit in the bin representing the winning team, the Kansas City Chiefs. You may also give cash/checks toward the purchase of new socks. Please mark the green envelope and check memo line "Socks". The team will buy socks with the funds. Donated and purchased socks will be delivered to the VA Hospital.

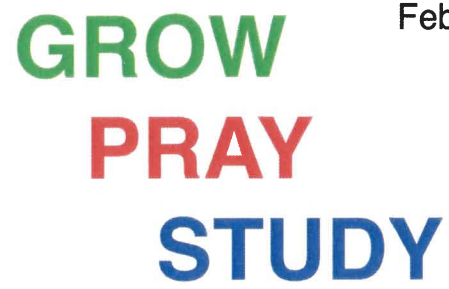
Valentines Cancer Luncheon: The free event will be held for anyone who has been touched by a cancer diagnosis. Join us in the Fellowship Hall on February 21 at 12:00 noon. A light luncheon with entertainment will be served. You may also invite your caregiver or a significant other who helped you through your time of need during your illness.

Party is by RESERVATION ONLY, due no later than February 16. You may speak to Taylor White anytime in person, or call Sally Glausser at 562-431-3851.

Lent Study. This Lenten Season we are pleased to offer an in-depth look at the Journey of Discipleship. Pastor Johan is leading a 6-week Lent Study Thursday mornings at 11:00 on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 834 7260 6096
Passcode: 205414

2024 Church Directory: Copies of the church phone directory are available for pick up this Sunday. If you have any corrections or additions, please contact the church office.



Notes from the Service

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.

My Prayers this week

Prayer Journal

Use these prayers in your time with God each day.

Household Prayer: Morning

God of ancient covenants, your steadfast love and faithfulness are still new every morning. I thank you that I can begin this day in the confidence of your abiding love and unending mercy. Help me to treat others— family, friends, coworkers, classmates, and even strangers— with love and mercy in our encounters today. When I disappoint or am discordant, help me to show love to others. Open my eyes to the places, people, and circumstances in which your kingdom has come near. I pray in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

Loving God, you have made covenant with me and with every living creature. I give thanks for the sign of the rainbow, for it reminds you and me of your promise: that the flood of destruction will not be the last word. I thank you, too, for the waters of baptism, the sign that I am raised as a child of the covenant; through Jesus Christ my Lord. And I thank you for the sign of the dove, the promise of your Holy Spirit. Hovering over the dawn of creation, descending upon your beloved Son, your Spirit also hovers over and descends within me. With the whole of creation, I give you all glory and honor. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of peace, as the day draws to a close and the evening draws in around me, I think of the creatures of the earth that also seek rest in the hours of the night. You love them even as you love me, and your covenant faithfulness covers all of us. Gen. 9:9 So, with the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, and the tiny ones who burrow in the ground, I offer you all thanks and praise: for your unending goodness; for the beauty of our home, the earth; for your gift of life instead of a deserved destruction. As your colorful bow now rests in the clouds, so may we color the earth with the ways of peace until all creation rests with you in completeness. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.