



**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

March 3, 2024

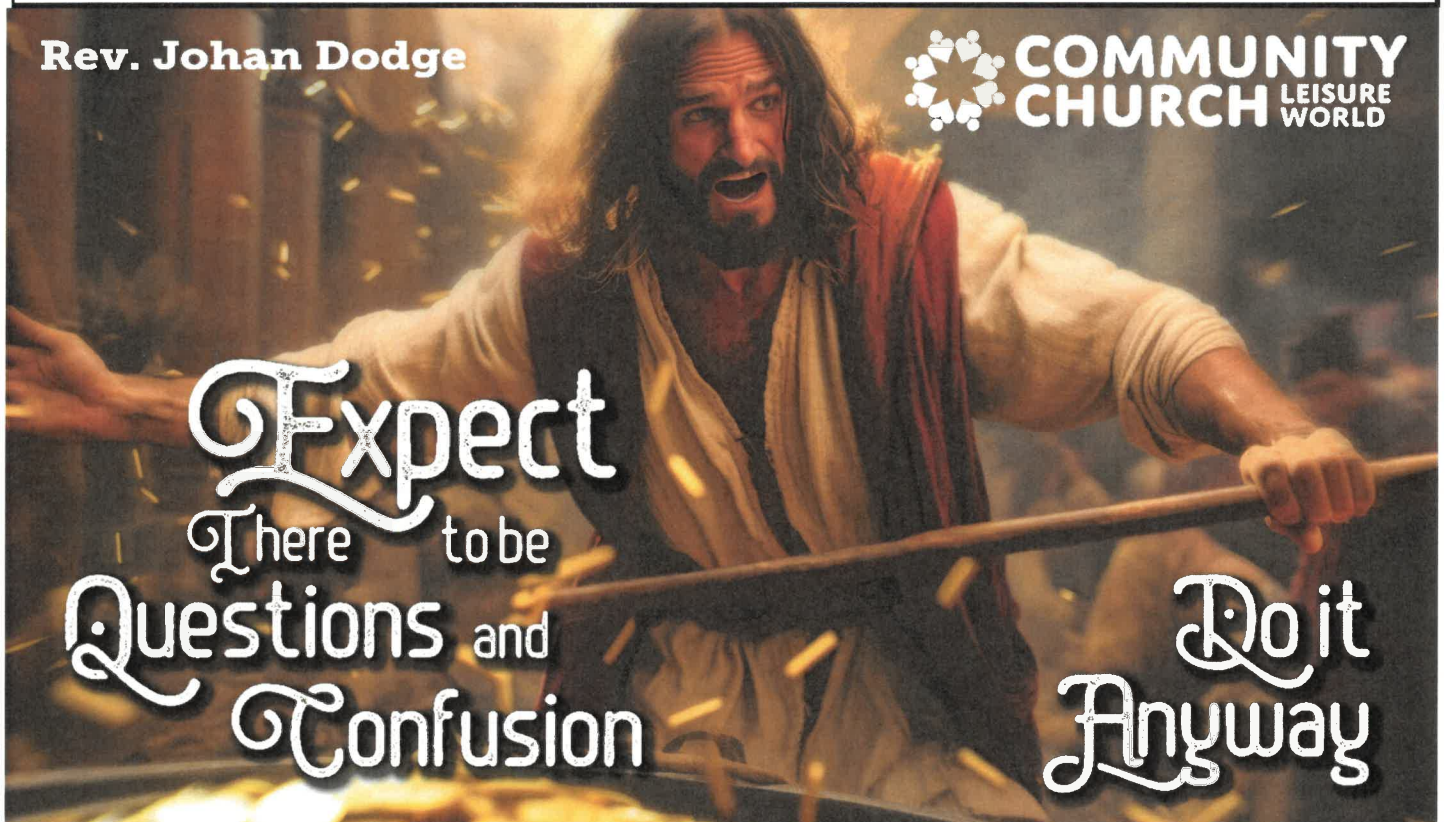
9:50 am

Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

(562) 431-2503

Rev. Johan Dodge

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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]

OPENING WORDS – Rev. Johan Dodge

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 – Virginia Olejnik

Merciful God, how fickle we are; we turn against you without even knowing it. Clear us, we pray from willfully ignoring your way. Let your commandments rule and guide us. Forgive us for worshiping anyone or anything except you; keep us faithful. Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships— with those closest to us and those who are distant neighbors. Help us to speak words of blessing and kindness, rather than words that belittle or destroy. Turn us away from violence, falsehood, and selfishness. Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power, for you are the God who made us, led us out slavery, and has brought us into the community of faith. Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS — Rev. Johan Dodge

Siblings, in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness with God and with one another! Thanks be to God!

Hymn: “Lift High the Cross”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Holy God, you have called us to live before you and with one another in all faithfulness. Unable to live as you intend, we inflict harm and hurt on others and on ourselves as well. In all these ways, we know we grieve your heart also. Hear, then, our prayers of intercession.

Restore us to communion with you and one another that we might live in the freedom you have bestowed.

We pray for people who are victims of crime, from petty theft to murder.

We pray that those harmed will find healing and will dwell in safety.

Hold especially close to your heart, O God, those who have lost a loved one to violence; and help us to offer tenderness and care in their struggles and grief.

We pray also for those who have committed crimes, that they may seek and find forgiveness and begin a new life of responsibility and integrity before you and in the community.

We pray for healing and reconciliation where trust has been broken, hostility has flared, or misunderstanding has grown.

Restore us not only to one another, but reconcile us to ourselves and to you, loving God. If restoration proves beyond hope, then grant new beginnings and possibilities for all. In every relationship, we seek your grace as we honor others by caring for them, being truthful, and working for their welfare.

Root out in us any jealousy toward what others possess, and let generosity grow in and among us instead.

Gracious God, we pray for those who are ill, in mind, body, or spirit; for those lonely and isolated from community; for those burdened by guilt or grief, by depression or despair.

Do not let us turn inward as a church, lest we shut out or neglect those who long for a community of welcome and companionship. Send us out in love, with open eyes, ears, and hearts. Make us true neighbors to one another and true children of your own calling. We pray in the name of Christ, who has come to set us free. Amen.

Hymn: “Gift of Finest Wheat”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Virginia Olejnik

God of Glory, we cannot hear the heavens proclaim your handiwork, though the speech of the skies must be magnificent. We cannot hear

what day and night are singing about you, though their song must be both bright and deep. Yet, somehow you are made known to us through our own foolish proclamation. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that your Word can be heard in our words. Open our ears to what you are saying to us today, we pray; and perhaps we may also hear echoes of your glory in the broad firmament above. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Virginia Olejnik

John 2:13-22

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Message: "Expect There to be Questions and Confusion — Do It Anyway"
Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

How do you respond to change? Do you welcome change? — have a generally go with the flow attitude? Or do you like things set a particular way and are disturbed by change and people — as the expression goes — moving your cheese? How do you re-establish equilibrium after sudden change? Is your goal to accept the new or try to return to the old?

Reflection: "It Is Well" Hannah Yi, *pianist*

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION:

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. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth, you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people. When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice. 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. When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to this your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

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)

Repeat after Cantor:



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.

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.

[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.

Unison Prayer

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Virginia Olejnik

The house of God is not a marketplace for buying and selling. It is a house of prayer, a place of healing and restoration, a place where we bring before God our provisions to be used for present needs. Let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: "You Are My All in All" David Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Virginia Olejnik

O Lord our God, we want to follow all your commandments— to love only you, not worshiping the things of this world; to love our neighbor freely, not desiring for ourselves something they possess. Accept these offerings, we pray, and teach us to be generous, giving fully of ourselves that we may truly be the body of Christ in this world. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

May God shine upon you, Christ fill you with true wisdom and strength, and the Holy Spirit guide you into all faithfulness, now 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 Pastor Don and family - Our dad, Don Roe, suffered a debilitating stroke on February 6. He is currently at Kaiser Anaheim and when stable, has been approved for care at a Skilled Nursing Facility. We are grateful that family, friends and Don's church family have rallied together to support us. Cards can be sent to: PO Box 335, Brea, CA 92822. Prayers for peace and a good outcome.

new Reker family - requests prayer for sister-in-law, Jan Rekers 83, in Florida. She is living with Parkinson's fairly well but fell and is having hip surgery now. Please pray for her care and recovery.

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Altar Flowers are provided by Taylor White. 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.

Upper Room: Copies of the Upper Room daily devotional are available at the check in table, in the Narthex racks and church office.

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

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.



**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

God of heaven and earth, I listen this morning for the sound of your glory: in the songs of birds, in quiet conversations that begin the day, in easy laughter among friends, in sunlight's warmth, pattering rain, or silent snowfall. Give me ears to hear your glory in its many forms. Give me eyes to see your glory in its many guises.

Throughout this day, I, too, will proclaim your glory, your grace, and your love so that I may be a part of the chorus of praise that stretches to the ends of the earth. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

Gracious God, whose power is made perfect in weakness, whose wisdom appears as foolishness in this world; in Jesus Christ, you overturn all my usual ways of behaving and believing. You scatter my false notions of discipleship as easily as coins are spilled from a box. You correct my notions of piety and order with fierce passion. Raze to ruins what is distorted in me, and raise me to new life in community. Do not let your church become content or contained as an institution but rather in joy may we be the body of Christ in and for the world. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of freedom, I thank you for claiming me as your own and for setting me in the midst of the community of faith. Today the news was filled with stories of people who do not live according to your commandments, with grievous results. Lives are shattered as your ancient tablets of stone are broken again and again. And I struggle, too, in my own ways, to live before you and my neighbors in faithfulness, generosity, and love. As the day comes to an end, I pray for forgiveness for myself and for this weary world, confident of your grace and mercy. Send your gift of Sabbath rest, and let me sleep in peace as, over and around me, night declares to night your power and glory. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.