

**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 17, 2024

9:50 am

Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

(562) 431-2503

Expect
Your
Own
Doubt

Do it
Anyway



Rev. Johan Dodge

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WORLD

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 – Marylee Thomsen

Redeeming God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, and have not loved our neighbors as we ought; we have strayed from your commandments. Do not remember when we have turned away, forgive the times we have placed ourselves above community, that we may fix our eyes on you and live your love, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS — Rev. Johan Dodge

Siblings, the birth of Jesus — God in the world, reveals God's love for us just as we are. May we delight in the joy of our salvation.

Hymn: “Hymn of Promise”

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

During the final days of his earthly life, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears, and in faithful obedience, he opened the way to eternal salvation. Let us open our hearts this day as we lift up our deepest needs and concerns to the One who is mighty in love.

We pray for all leaders and people, that by the power of your cross you would drive out all violence, domination, and injustice in our world as you draw us to your Christ.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

We pray for our war-ravaged world, that you would teach us to walk together in your way of righteousness and peace.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

We pray for the vocation of the church, that our prayers would bear the fruit of action as we hear the cries of pain and suffering of those in need.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

We pray for the poor, the terrified, and the oppressed, and those who are too much alone, that they may find a home in you as we serve them in your name.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

As your son anticipated his death on the cross in light of your steadfast love, may all who have died or who are dying be at rest in your eternal care. Through Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we glorify you, almighty God, with unending thanks and praise.
Amen.

Hymn: "Here I Am, Lord"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Marylee Thomsen

Your Word, O God, has power to change our lives and to create a whole new world. As we meditate on your word this day, fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may treasure your word with our whole hearts and fix our eyes on you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Marylee Thomsen

John 12:20-33

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the

earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Message: “Expect Your Own Doubt — Do It Anyway” Rev. Johan Dodge

Questions for Reflection: Rev. Johan Dodge

Where is God enacting new life within or around you? What in your life must die so that you may flourish? What must fall away so that you can rise in Christ?

Reflection: “I Give You My Heart” Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Marylee Thomsen

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and takes on new life, it remains just a single grain. With grateful hearts, let us bring the fruit of our lives to God.

[Ushers, please come forward]

Offertory: “Only Love” Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Marylee Thomsen

As the high priest Melchizedek blessed Abraham and offered his tithe of bread and wine at your holy altar, may our gifts be made perfect through Christ to glorify you and bless the world. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

Hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

BLESSING: Rev. Johan Dodge

Jesus said, "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also." May God, whose hand has written the law of love upon your heart, fill you with peace from deep within and the commitment to live in harmony. And the blessing of God, who loves, forgives, and calls us home, be with you now and always. My siblings, Go in peace to love and be Christ to the world.

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 – Surgery scheduled April 15 at Los Alamitos Hospital. Prayers for God's peace, strength, and healing.

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Altar Flowers are provided by Phyllis Spencer. Refreshments are provided by Prince Pierson in celebration of Lorna's Birthday.

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

Easter Lilies: Easter Lilies will once again adorn the church altar over Easter. Easter Lilies are available for purchase at \$15 each and may be picked up after Easter worship. Please fill out the "Holiday Flower Order" form with the notation of the loved one you are honoring/remembering and place the \$15 in the attached envelope. See Sandy Walker if you have any questions.

South Side Jazz Concert March 24: You don't want to miss this upbeat, music from the "Golden Age", concert in the Sanctuary at 3:00 pm. Light refreshments will follow the performance. A free will offering will be collected at the event. Invite a friend to join you.

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.

Please make sure your copy is updated to include the corrected information for:

Gerri Seaton.

1623 Monterey Rd, 20-L, SB 90740-5227, phone: 562-430-6147

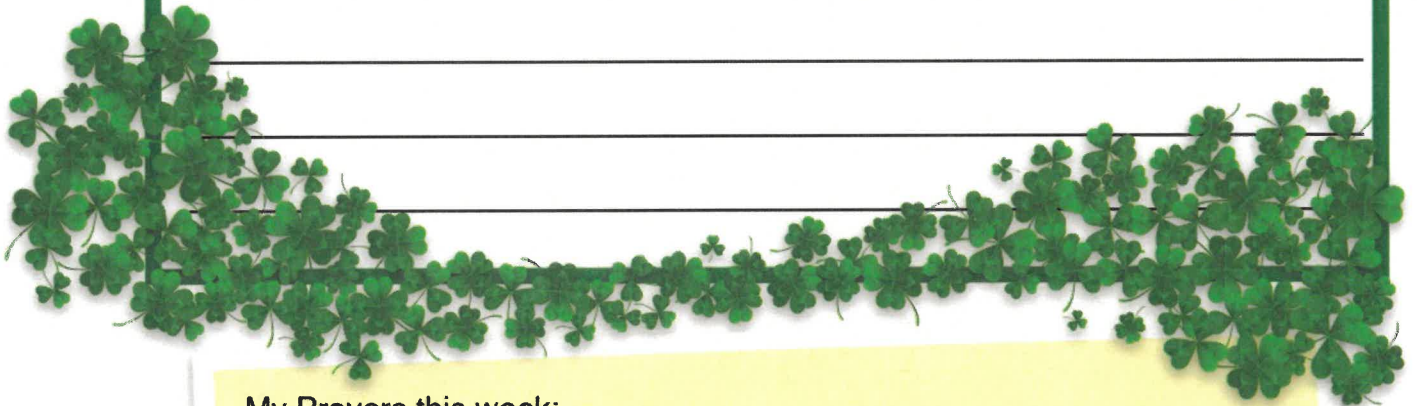
Taylor White: email address – tw908686@gmail.com.

March 17, 2024



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

Loving God, you offer the gift of new life each day. Open my heart to receive this grace that I may be wholly yours, then give me the courage to share this gift wherever I go as I seek to walk in your way of mercy, forgiveness, and newness of life. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

Holy God, by the life and teaching of Jesus, you lift the suffering world toward hope and transformation and open the way to the Kingdom of God here on earth. As I move ever closer to the way of Christ, may your law of love be written on my heart as Jesus draws all people to himself revealing your love for the world. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Forgiving God, who makes all things new, you know where I have flourished this day, and you know where I have failed. Help me to know that in all my challenges there is a seed of hope that enables me to more faithfully depend on you. May I rest in peace this night and awake refreshed to greet the newness of your day. Amen.