

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

9:50 AM
562-431-2503

March 31, 2024 – EASTER SUNDAY



*Please take a flower in the narthex, to place
on the Easter Cross later in the service.*

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.

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ our Lord.

My siblings in Christ:

On this most holy morning

in which Jesus Christ passed over from death to life,
we gather as the Church to watch and pray.

This is the Passover of Christ,

in which we share in Christ's victory over death.

OPENING PRAYER:

God of life,

through Jesus Christ

you have bestowed upon the world the light of life.

Sanctify this new fire,

and grant that our hearts and minds may also be kindled

with holy desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising,

that we may attain to the feast of everlasting light;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FLOWERING THE EASTER CROSS

[please place a flower on the Easter Cross]

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE:

The leader lights the paschal candle from the fire, saying:

The light of Christ rises in glory,

overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

The paschal candle is lifted so that all may see it, and all say:

Christ is our light!

ALL JOIN EASTER CROSS PROCESSION INTO THE CHURCH:

"Lift High the Cross" — Hannah Yi, *organist*

[please remain standing as you are able]

EASTER PROCLAMATION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP: Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures

here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye Heav'n - ly

host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

[please be seated]

THANKSGIVING FOR WATER— Rev. Johan Dodge

Holy God, We give you thanks for your grace revealed through water. Before time, at the beginning of creation, your Holy Spirit moved across the face of the deep, from dark waters and from chaos you brought forth light and land and every living thing, declaring them good. When the world fell into wickedness and rebellion, you saved Noah in the terrible, scouring flood; by light refracted in the water of clouds, you made the rainbow a sign of your covenant never to abandon the earth and its inhabitants to the destructive curse of evil. You led the Hebrews through the waters of the Red Sea, freeing them from slavery in Egypt, and led them through the waters of the Jordan River, bringing them to your promised land of milk and honey. To the waters of that same Jordan River, your Son Jesus came to be baptized by John, as the Holy Spirit anointed him to proclaim salvation for the world. Send your Holy Spirit to bless the water of this font. Let it be for us the water of new creation, the cleansing flood, the covenant rainbow, the Red Sea of victory, the anointing of salvation. Let it be our Jordan River, through which we become one with Jesus Christ in his baptism, receiving the promise you have opened to people of every time and nation; for we pray through Christ who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day,
Love's re - deem - ing work is done, — Al - le - lu - ia!
Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
Soar we now where Christ has led,

All cre - a - tion join to say
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, — Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? head,
Fol - low - ing our ex - al - ted head,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Once he died our souls to save,
Made like him, like him we rise,

Sing ye Heav'n and Earth re - ply, —
Christ has o - pened Pa - ra - dise. Al - le - lu - ia! lu - ia!
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, saying,
Holy God, your love for us and all the world is greater than we can imagine.

With joy, we pray for all Christian assemblies united this morning at the empty tomb. Help us see you, O God, in those we do not expect to encounter and remove all fear from our hearts.

Holy God, your love for us and all the world is greater than we can imagine.

With humility, we pray for this planet, our home. Heal what we have scarred and broken; renew the face of Earth from north to south, from east to west so that your creation may speak to us of your goodness.

Holy God, your love for us and all the world is greater than we can imagine.

With hope and love, we pray for the nations of the world, especially those places overwhelmed by war and conflict. By the light of the resurrection, destroy the shroud that is cast over all who live under dictatorship, in the clutches of propagandists, and in ignorance. Bless peacemakers who work to bring justice to their country, city, village, and household.

Holy God, your love for us and all the world is greater than we can imagine.

With compassion, wipe away the tears of all who weep. Give us the spiritual tools we need to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort those who are in any trouble. Send your angels to watch over the vulnerable and sick.

Holy God, your love for us and all the world is greater than we can imagine.

With fondness, we remember those who saw our risen Lord and witnessed to his resurrection so that we might act in faith. May their words and actions inspire us to share our stories of encountering your loving presence in our lives.

Holy God, your love for us and all the world is greater than we can imagine. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
All thy works with joy sur - round thee, Earth and Heav'n re - flect thy rays,
Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

5
hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, ope - ning to the sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, bind - ing all with - in its span.

9
Melt the cloud of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
God, cre - a - tor, Christ our bro - ther, all who live in love are thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;

13
Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day!
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.
joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward, in the tri - umph song of life.

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Phyllis Spencer

Open our eyes and soften our hearts, O God, through the work of your Holy Spirit, that in the hearing of your Word we may receive new life. Amen.

SCRIPTURE — Phyllis Spencer

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

MESSAGE: “Lord of All – Yep, Them Too!” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION: Rev. Johan Dodge

Peter, in the Book of Acts, speaks of God showing no partiality — Of God loving all of God’s creation. Where is God’s love evident in your life today? Where have you denied yourself God’s love because you felt unworthy or unlovable? Where have you been unkind to someone else for whom God has created them to be? What might you do different to be more Christ like and show less partiality in your own life?

REFLECTION: “Because He Lives” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Phyllis Spencer

With compassion for our needs, the Risen One stands beside us, calling our names. Let us, with that same mercy, bring forth tithes and offerings to relieve the suffering of this world and to proclaim far and wide the good news of resurrection life.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Resucitó” — Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Phyllis Spencer

Holy God, you shower us with gifts so abundant, we cannot measure them all. You give us life itself and the power to befriend our companions in this world. Bless these gifts for the sake of those in need, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, one God, now and forever. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

HYMN: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Let There Be Peace on Earth

*Transcribed for Leisure World Community Church by David Albulario
with hope for peace and refuge for the people of Ukraine, the Middle East, and for all the World*

Music & Words by
SY MILLER and JILL JACKSON

Flowing rubato ♩ = 100



BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

Now may the power of God's endless love surround you and guide you. Go from here renewed and strong, knowing that Love wins. Look for the blessings that await you this week. Weep with those who weep. Rejoice with those who celebrate. Tell the story of Love.

CLOSING HYMN: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love: The
fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove. A - men.

*Music Team: Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*
John Fluker, *pianist*

Dave Albulario, *tenor*
Hannah Yi, *pianist*

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

new Phyllis Poper – recently celebrated her 102nd birthday.

She is grateful for prayers. If you wish to send a card, please mail to:
1872 Golden Rain Rd. #26-A, Seal Beach, CA 90740

new Peggy Coles – is at home on hospice, surrounded by family. She is grateful for prayers.
If you wish to send a card, please find her address in your church directory.

new Sherman Solaas – Update: Sherman is recovering well. Prayers of thanksgiving for continued health and recovery.

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Easter Lilies are provided by the congregation. Refreshments are provided by the Fellowship team. See the sign-up charts to provide refreshments or cover cost of altar flowers for future services. Altar flowers are \$35. Sandy Walker coordinates arrangements.

Easter Offering: Please find the attached Easter Offering envelope. This special one-time gift is to support the life and ministries of Community Church, in addition to our usual weekly or monthly offerings.

Care Team: Did you know we have a Care Team? We are blessed to have a Care Team composed of gifted members of our congregation who visit those unable to participate in weekly worship. If you are going into the hospital, are recently home from the hospital, or are simply recovering from illness at home and would like a visit, please call the church office, and leave a message for Pastor Johan and someone from the Care Team will reach out.

Easter Lilies: If you purchased an Easter Lily and would like to bring it home or deliver it to a friend, please pick it up after the Easter Worship Service. See Sandy Walker in the Fellowship Hall. Please do not remove Lilies from the altar.

Spring Fling: Our “Spring Fling” Bazaar will take place on Saturday, April 27th, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Enjoy plenty of delicious goodies at our Bake Sale. We’ll be featuring “Granny’s Attic,” as well as outside vendors.



Easter Flowers Given With Love

Donated By

Noemi Reyes Albulario

Mo Ashley

Sandy Cardot

Mary Maness

Joanna Matos

Prince & Lorna Pierson

Gerri Seaton

Shirley Solaas

Patty Jo Schmitz

Phyllis Spencer

LWKCC

In Memory of

My Parents,
Dominga & Benito Reyes

Don & Rosie Ashley

My Husband, Dee

My Mother, Helen

My Parents, Bill & Vera Brown

Jack Nichols & Lynn Nichols

My Son, B.C.

Lee

In Honor of

Linda Haviland

Our Parents: Mary & Em Pierson
Garth & Maxine Johnston

Friendship with LWCC

The Season of Easter

First Sunday of Easter — Eggs



Yes, Eggs are a traditional symbol for Easter. Our Orthodox siblings have been dyeing eggs for Easter for centuries. The eggs were dyed red to symbolize the blood of Jesus. The shell was the tomb and the cracked egg was the open tomb.

Second Sunday of Easter — Water



For our Jewish siblings, the mikvah — (gathering of waters) personifies both the womb and the grave and consequently, rebirth. It is regarded as a pure, unadulterated avenue of connection with God; and for that reason, it is a place where hope is reawakened and strengthened.

Third Sunday of Easter — Starfish



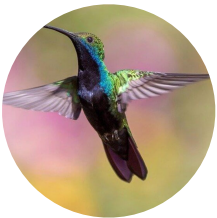
Starfish, like many of our animal siblings, have the ability to regenerate their limbs. Our Native American siblings venerated the starfish for their strength and immortality. The Haida Tribe even has a Starfish Clan.

Fourth Sunday of Easter — Butterfly



The life of the caterpillar as it goes into a cocoon and emerges as a butterfly is perhaps the most common symbol of regeneration, transformation and new life.

Fifth Sunday of Easter — Hummingbird



Just as the Butterfly is the most common symbol of new life, the Hummingbird is perhaps one of the least well known. The seemingly effortless hovering flight of the Hummingbird reminds us of divinity, rebirth, and adaptability as the hummingbird flies from flower to flower.

Sixth Sunday of Easter — Lillies — Mother's Day



White Lilies and other bulb flowers take us through the stages of transformation — bulb — buried, time in the dark of the soil, and the new life shooting forth from the bulb and producing flowers. The hymn of Promise captures this sentiment beautifully.

Seventh Sunday of Easter — Triskele



The Triskele — Triple Spiral — is a Celtic symbol used to represent the trinity and the circle of life. The three circles can represent the unity of body, mind, and soul or life, death, and new life. The cycle of life is perpetual — implying hope and the prospect of new beginnings.

March 31, 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

Heavenly God, our Father, I am full of thanks for a night of rest and for this new day and all that now awaits me. I go forward toward encounters with family and friends, work and play, and all that will bring me into contact with strangers, certain that you are with me. Lead and guide me in the way of a resurrected life. Help me to see the risen Lord today; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

Holy God, our Mother, you are my comfort at the end as at the beginning of each day. You pull me toward the goodness you desire for me. I give you thanks for all that has come my way this morning, and I ask your enveloping power to watch over me this afternoon. in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy One, you come to me with power beyond all knowing. You lift all things out of the dust, you breathe love into every cell, you call me into communion with you, and you claim victory over the darkness. Blessed be your holy name now and forever. Amen.