

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

April 7, 2024
2nd Sunday of Easter: *Water*



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 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Virginia Olejnik

You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit. With signs and wonders, Jesus revealed your lovingkindness for us O God and taught us to live together in loving kindness. How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity. **Amen.**

HYMN: “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

'Tis so sweet to trust in Je - sus, Just to take him at his word;
Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Je - sus, Just from sin and self to cease;
I'm so glad I learned to trust him, Pre - cious Je - sus, Lov - ing Friend;

5
Just to rest up - on his prom - ise, Just to know, "Thus says the Lord,"
Just from Je - sus sim - ply tak - ing Life and rest, and joy and peace.
And I know that he is with me, Will be with me to the end.

9
Je - sus, Je - sus how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!

13
Je - sus, Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus! O, for grace to trust him more!

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

[A time of silence is kept after each ellipsis.]

Living God, giver of life, hear us as we pray, saying,

Pour out your blessing, O Lord; send us in your Spirit to bring peace.

We pray for the church ...

Let your church be a living sign of the woundedness and healing of Christ,
sharing the gift of forgiveness and the gospel of reconciliation.

Pour out your blessing, O Lord; send us in your Spirit to bring peace.

We pray for the earth ...

Help us to see the scars of death that mark your good creation, and to seek
the blessing of life that you offer to all creatures.

Pour out your blessing, O Lord; send us in your Spirit to bring peace.

We pray for all nations ...

Show us how good and pleasant it is when people live together in unity, and anoint us with your wisdom so that we may seek the ways of life.

Pour out your blessing, O Lord; send us in your Spirit to bring peace.

We pray for this community ...

Give us a vision of the common good: not clinging to our own possessions but seeking the fullness of life for all as a testimony to Christ's resurrection.

Pour out your blessing, O Lord; send us in your Spirit to bring peace.

We pray for loved ones ...

Be near to those who walk in darkness and lead us all into Christ's light so that our fellowship may be true and our joy may be complete.

Pour out your blessing, O Lord; send us in your Spirit to bring peace.

By the blessing of your Spirit, help us to live as we pray so that the world may come to know the gift of life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "One Bread, One Body"

Refrain

One bread, one bod-y, one Love of all, one cup of

bless-ing which we bless, And we, though man-y through-out the

Earth, we are one bod - y in this one Love.

Verses

1. Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2. Man - y or the gifts, man - y or the works,
3. Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,

wom - an or man, no more.
one in our God of all.
gath - ered to one, for all.

rit.

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Virginia Olejnik

God of all who doubt and believe, by the gift of your Spirit enable us to hear with our ears, to see with our eyes, and to touch with our hands your Word of life—Jesus Christ— our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Virginia Olejnik

Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

MESSAGE: "Is Great Grace Upon You?" — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION: Rev. Johan Dodge

Our first steps out from under the culture of sin often reveal our deep-seated doubts. Are there times when your questions and doubts grow deeper? Are there times when your faith is strengthened and renewed?

REFLECTION: "My Tribute" — John Flucker, *pianist*

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM — Rev. Johan Dodge

Hear the good news of the gospel: As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so God says to each of us: You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased. In Jesus, our relationship with God is forever changed from God's people to God's children. In Jesus we become the resurrected body of Christ in the world today.

BLESSING OVER THE WATER — Rev. Johan Dodge

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism. For you have washed away our sins, and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, that dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory.

THE LORD'S SUPPER | HOLY COMMUNION | THE EUCHARIST:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[Ushers, please come forward and distribute the elements]

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: 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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. In his baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with us. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to this, your Church, you delivered us from our slavery to empire, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

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:



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 a profound sign of hope in the midst of human darkness, that we may be transformed into the resurrected body of Christ at work in the world.

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 forever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Virginia Olejnik

Remember the first believers who shared one heart and soul, held their possessions in common, and distributed them to all in need. In that same spirit, let us present our offerings at the feet of the risen Lord.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: — Dave Albulario, *tenor*; and Renée Albulario, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Virginia Olejnik

Holy God, we give you thanks and praise for light and life and love, and — above all — the presence of the living Lord among us. By your Spirit who breathes within us, strengthen our faith, use our gifts, and work in our lives to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

[please stand as you able]

HYMN: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Flowing rubato ♩ = 100



BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

This is the blessing of the Lord: Let your life be a sign of Christ's life so that others may come to believe that the Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds"

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Alto) and piano accompaniment. It is in 3/4 time and the key of B-flat major (two flats). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

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: Dave Albulario, *tenor*
John Fluker, *pianist*

Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*
Hannah Yi, *pianist*

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

new Don Coles, family, & friends – prayers for the peaceful passing of Peggy Coles, and the for comfort and strength to Don and his family & friends. If you wish to send a card, please find the Coles' address in your church directory.

new Phyllis Poper – recently celebrated her 102nd birthday. She is grateful for prayers. Last week, her address was listed incorrectly. If you wish to send a card, please mail to this corrected address: 2218 Conquista Ave, Long Beach, CA 90815

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Flowers are anonymously provided. Refreshments are provided by Jenny Chang. 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. It's not too late to make a special one-time gift to support the life and ministries of Community Church, in addition to your 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.

Spring Fling: Our "Spring Fling" Bazaar will take place on Saturday, April 27th, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Enjoy our Bake Sale with lots of yummy sweets & treats. We'll be featuring "Granny's Attic," as well as outside vendors.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone,
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known ...
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

"All are welcome in this place."

Doxology (Old Hundredth L.M.)
Music by Louis Bourgeois, 1551
Words by Thomas Ken, 1674

"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"
Music by William J Kirkpatrick
Words by Louisa M. R. Stead
Based on the Baptist Hymnal 1991 #411

"Holy, Holy, Holy"
"Christ Has Died, Christ Is Risen"
from "Mass of Creation" by Marty Haugen

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"
Music & Words by Sy Miller & Jill Jackson

"One Bread, One Body"
Music & Words by John B. Foley
Arr. Gary Alan Smith
Text based on 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17,
Galatians 3:28, & 1 Corinthians 12,
© 1978, 1989 John B. Foley and
North American Liturgy Resources

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (Dennis SM)
Music by Johann G. N geli, 1768-1836
Words by John Fawcett, 1740-1817
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

*All music contained herein transcribed &
adapted by D. Albulario for Leisure World
Community Church, Seal Beach, California*

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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



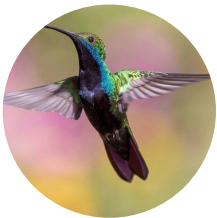
Starfish, like many of our animal siblings, have the ability to regenerate their limbs. Our Native American siblings venerated the starfish for their strength and immortality. The Haida Tribe even has a Starfish Clan.

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.

April 7, 2024



**GROW
PRAY
STUDY**

Notes from the Service

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There is no handwriting 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 light, I praise you for the gift of this new day. By the power of your Spirit enable me to live in your light and seek the holy fellowship of Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

Breathe in this place, O Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to open my mind, unlock my heart, and enliven my faith so that I may welcome the risen one around me. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Be with me, Lord Jesus, at the evening of this day. Enter into my heart and fill it with your peace so that I may rejoice and rest in your presence. Amen.