

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 14, 2024
3rd Sunday of Easter: *Starfish*



Rev. Johan Dodge

COMMUNITY CHURCH
LEISURE 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]



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.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into three systems, with measure numbers 6 and 10 indicated at the beginning of the second and third systems respectively.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Jeanette Williams

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the love poured into our world through Christ Jesus, who opened our minds to understand what you have made, whose appearance among his followers brings peace, and who still encourages us through the Spirit to create faith through touch and taste. Show us Jesus, even now, through the mystery of your threefold presence, one God, abiding now and forever. **Amen.**



HYMN: "Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

Eas - ter peo - ple, raise your voic - es, sounds of Heav'n in
Fear of death can no more stop us from our press - ing
Ev - 'ry day to us is Eas - ter, with its res - ur -

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into two systems.

4

Earth should ring. Christ has brought us Heav - en's choic - es;
 here be - low. For God's Love em - pow - ers us to
 rec - tion songs. When in trou - ble move the fast - er

7

Heav'n - ly mu - sic, let it ring.
 tri - umph o - ver ev - 'ry foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 to our God who rights all wrongs.

10

Al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter peo - ple, let us sing.
 On to the vic - t'ry now we go.
 See the pow'r of Heav'n - ly throngs.

[please be seated]



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

God has made the One who was rejected the cornerstone of a new community.

Holy One, as the risen Christ opened the minds of the disciples to understand the Scriptures and gave them power through the Holy Spirit to walk boldly in this world, open your people today to the healing, wisdom, and faith given in your Word; hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

Prince of Peace, as Christ Jesus showed his wounded hands and feet to the terrified apostles, reveal to your church, and to people of prayer in every faith, the wounds of our neighbors, the fears of individuals and families, and the avenues toward healing; hear us, O God, your mercy is great.



Author of life, we beg for peace among nations, peace throughout communities, peace within families. Guide leaders and voters, legislatures and parliaments, judges and juries. Teach diplomacy and let our ways be formed so that all creatures, plants, and people may have plenty; hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

Light in our darkness, let your brightness burn in places shrouded in violence. Reveal the pains that are hidden in secret. Unveil the needs of our own hearts so that we may know the power of vulnerability. Your Son was raised to life even from the grave. Show us again that life comes from death; hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

Healer of our every ill, we pray for all who are in need, for refugees of war and all who are displaced by storms, for rescue workers and medical teams, for those whose bones are weary, for those who show us the power of community to give hope to the frightened, and for all who have asked for our prayers; hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

Trusting in your abundant mercy, O God, we commend into your care all for whom we pray, and our own lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**



[please stand as you are able]



HYMN: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor;
 Sum - mer Thy and win - ter, and spring - time har - vest,
 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

9 A7 D D Gmaj7 Em7/G

Thou chang - est not; Thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

13 G#°7 C#/G# D°7 D/A D/A F#m/A A7 D

As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

[please be seated]



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Jeanette Williams

Holy God, by your Spirit reveal your radical, surprising love; come to us through your holy word, and let us hear what you are saying. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Jeanette Williams

Acts 3:12-19

¹²When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.

¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

MESSAGE: “Stop Acting in Ignorance” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION: Rev. Johan Dodge

When Jesus appeared to the disciples, “he opened their minds to understand the scriptures” (Luke 24:45). To have our minds opened to understand the Scriptures is to go beyond our minds and not simply read the Scriptures but use our God given gifts of rational thought and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to understand the deeper teachings of Jesus. Have you sought to understand the Scriptures, or have you simply been reading them? How does understanding move you from believing in Jesus to acting like Jesus? In the coming week, take note of one new understanding that comes to you from something you hear or read or realize through another person.

REFLECTION: “Amazing Grace” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*



INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Jeanette Williams

As Jesus gave himself fully for us and then appeared to the disciples bringing peace, so let us now bring wholeness and healing to others through our tithes and gifts.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Split the Sea” — Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – Jeanette Williams

Lord God, we offer to you only a portion of what you have given us. All that we have is from your creative hand. All that we can give away we do through Jesus’ love. All our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit’s wisdom. Deal graciously with these gifts so that others may have joy; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]



HYMN: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Flowing rubato ♩ = 100

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me. _____

Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be. _____

With God, our Cre - a - tor, _____ we are fam - i - ly. _____

Let us walk with each oth - er _____ in per - fect har - mo - ny. _____

Let peace be - gin with me, let this be the mo - ment now; _____

With ev - 'ry step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow: _____ To

take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly; _____

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me. _____

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

My siblings, the Lord has blessed you and God's grace and mercy shine upon you. Live, therefore, with hope, share your joy, withhold your anger, shed your disappointments, turn to all people with gentleness. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds"

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds". It is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of half and quarter 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 Renate Carnegie – Renate had a successful surgery on April 10th and is recovering. Prayers of gratitude, and for speedy healing and recovery.

new Mary Maness – Mary's son, Mark, will be having surgery on April 18th. Mary's own surgery has been postponed to May 7th. Prayers for their doctors, and for speedy healing and recovery.

new Sandy Walker – Sandy will be having surgery on April 15th. Prayers for her doctors, and for speedy healing and recovery.





Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Flowers are provided by Kim Myung, from our Korean congregation. Refreshments are provided by the Hildreth Family. 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 LM)
Music by Louis Bourgeois, 1551
Words by Thomas Ken, 1674

"Easter People, Raise Your Voices"
Tune: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"
Music by Henry T. Smart
Words by William M. James
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Publishing House

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
Music by William Marion Runyan
Words by Thomas O. Chisholm

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"
Music & Words by Sy Miller & Jill Jackson
"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (Dennis SM)
Music by Johann G. Nägeli, 1768-1836
Words by John Fawcett, 1740-1817
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (Dennis SM)
Music by Johann G. Nägeli, 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
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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



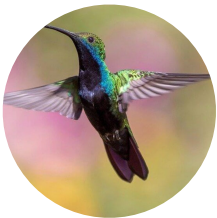
Starfish, like many of our animal siblings, have the ability to regenerate their limbs. Our Native American siblings venerated the starfish for their strength and immortality. The Haida Tribe even has a Starfish Clan.

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 14, 2024



**GROW
PRAY
STUDY**

Notes from the Service

[illegible]

My Prayers this week:

Prayer Journal

Use these prayers in your time with God each day.

Household Prayer: Morning

God of surprising revelations, I thank you for rest and renewal. I thank you that when you come to your people, you speak peace and invite us to follow in the way of Jesus. Make this new day a time when I will give more thanks for life than I did yesterday. Give me ears to hear your will for me, hands that are open to others, and eyes to see the beauty in your world; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

In your compassion Dear God, you sent me Jesus, who freed me from darkness and lights my path to endless renewal and life eternal. And so, with all of creation, with all the needy and hungry ones, with all those who have enough and plenty, with creatures large and small, with sun and moon and stars, and with the saints of every age, I praise you and put my life into your hands. May my hands serve as your hands and may I not serve alone. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

For all that has happened this day, O God, I give you thanks. Even as I faced obstacles I thank you for walking with me. You came to hold me strong and help me take the next step. Now give me rest, secure in your never-failing arms. Let my dreams revolve around what is pleasing and good, bringing me to a new day with zeal for your gifts; in Jesus' name. Amen.