

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 21, 2024
3rd Sunday of Easter: *Butterfly*



A

New Reality



Rev. Johan Dodge



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 — Marylee Thomsen

Seek God's grace with boldness for through Jesus we have full access in one Spirit to God. Christ has created in himself one new humanity, we are no longer strangers and aliens, but members of the household of God.

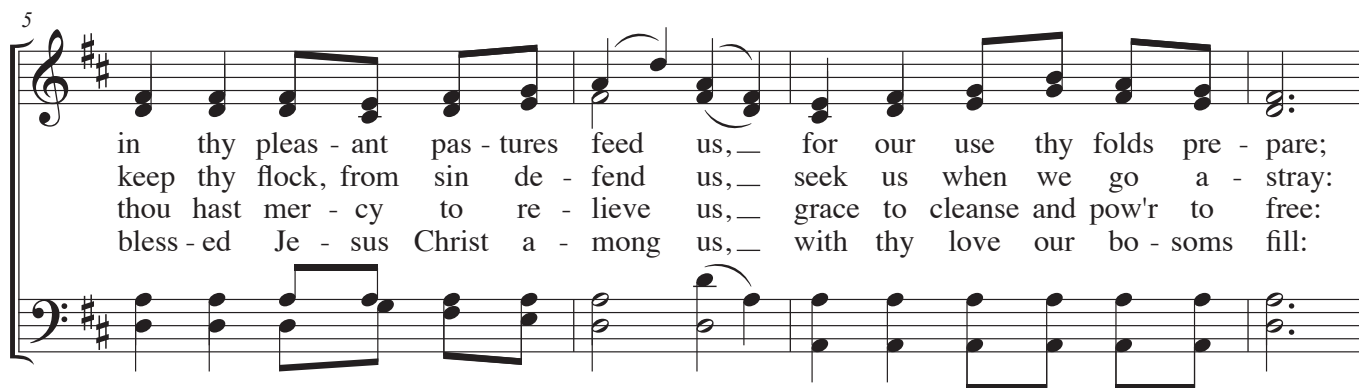
Amen.



HYMN: "Jesus, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

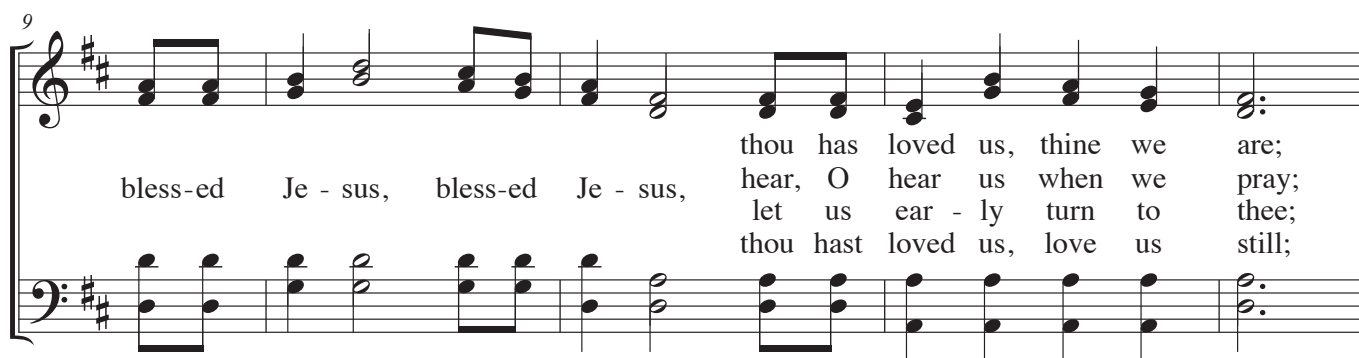
Je - sus, like a shep-herd lead us, — much we need thy ten - der care;
We are thine, do thou be - friend us, — be the guard-ian of our way;
Thou hast prom-ised to re - ceive us, — poor and low - ly though we be;
Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do thy will;

5



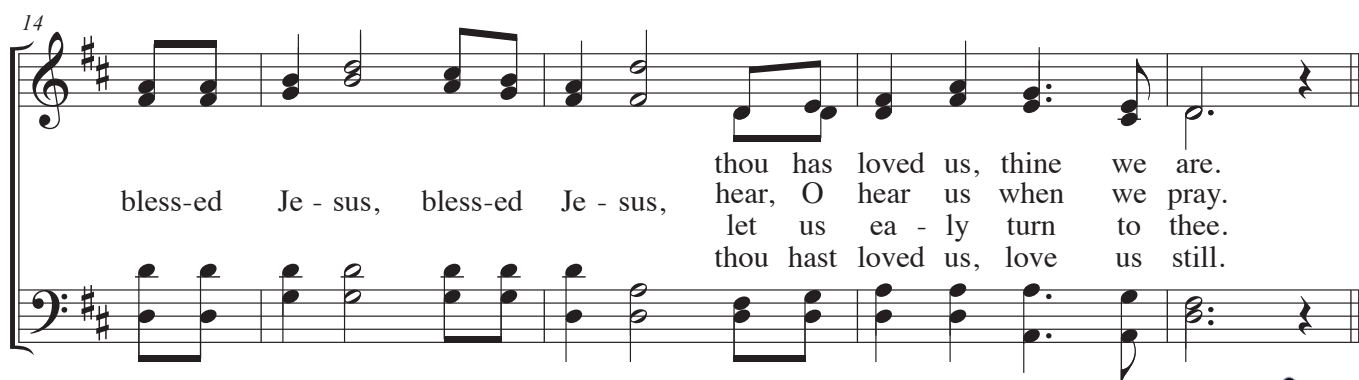
in thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, — for our use thy folds pre - pare;
 keep thy flock, from sin de - fend us, — seek us when we go a - stray;
 thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, — grace to cleanse and pow'r to free:
 bless - ed Je - sus Christ a - mong us, — with thy love our bo - soms fill:

9



bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou has loved us, thine we are;
 hear, O hear us when we pray;
 let us ear - ly turn to thee;
 thou hast loved us, love us still;

14



bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou has loved us, thine we are.
 hear, O hear us when we pray.
 let us ea - ly turn to thee.
 thou hast loved us, love us still.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

With boldness, let us offer our prayers to the shepherd of our souls.



We pray for the church in every place ...

Gather us together and make us one, one in ministry and mission to the world, so that there will be one flock, one shepherd.

God of goodness and mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world ...

Anoint all leaders with your wisdom so that they will use their power to help poor and defend the vulnerable.

God of goodness and mercy, hear our prayer.



We pray for the nations of the world ...

Anoint all leaders with your wisdom so that they will use their power to help the poor and defend the vulnerable.

God of goodness and mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for this community ...

Strengthen those who work each day to heal the sick, welcome the outcasts, and help sisters and brothers in need.

God of goodness and mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for friends and loved ones....

Comfort all who are suffering; walk with them through dark valleys and restore them, body, mind, and soul.

God of goodness and mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving God, by the power of your Spirit, help us to keep your commandments and to love one another with the love of Jesus, in whose holy name we pray. **Amen.**



[please stand as you are able]



HYMN: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
When my way dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws near, near,
When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws near, near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the
when my life is al - most gone, hear my
and the day is past and gone, at the

10

storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall: —
ri - ver I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

14

Take my hand, — pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

[please be seated]



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Marylee Thomsen

Lord God, good shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE — Marylee Thomsen

Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."



MESSAGE: “A New Reality” — Rev. Johan Dodge



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION: Rev. Johan Dodge

What can the metamorphosis of the caterpillar into a butterfly teach us about transforming the world around us into the kin-dom of God? Remember God desires each of us to do the work that is ours to do and not the work that is someone else's to do. What in your life needs to be transformed? Where do you see the need for transformation in the world around you? Who might God be calling you to partner with to bring about that transformation?

REFLECTION: “Cornerstone / Solid Rock” — John Fluker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Marylee Thomsen

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the goods of the world and sees a brother or sister in need, yet refuses to help? With love for God and neighbor, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Butterfly Song” — Dave Albulario, *tenor*



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Marylee Thomsen

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have shown us the meaning of love through Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us. Show us how to share Christ's love by giving our lives for one another; to the glory of your holy name. Amen.



BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

May the goodness and mercy of God follow you all the days of your life, and in the name of the good shepherd, love one another. Alleluia! **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: “Blessed 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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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

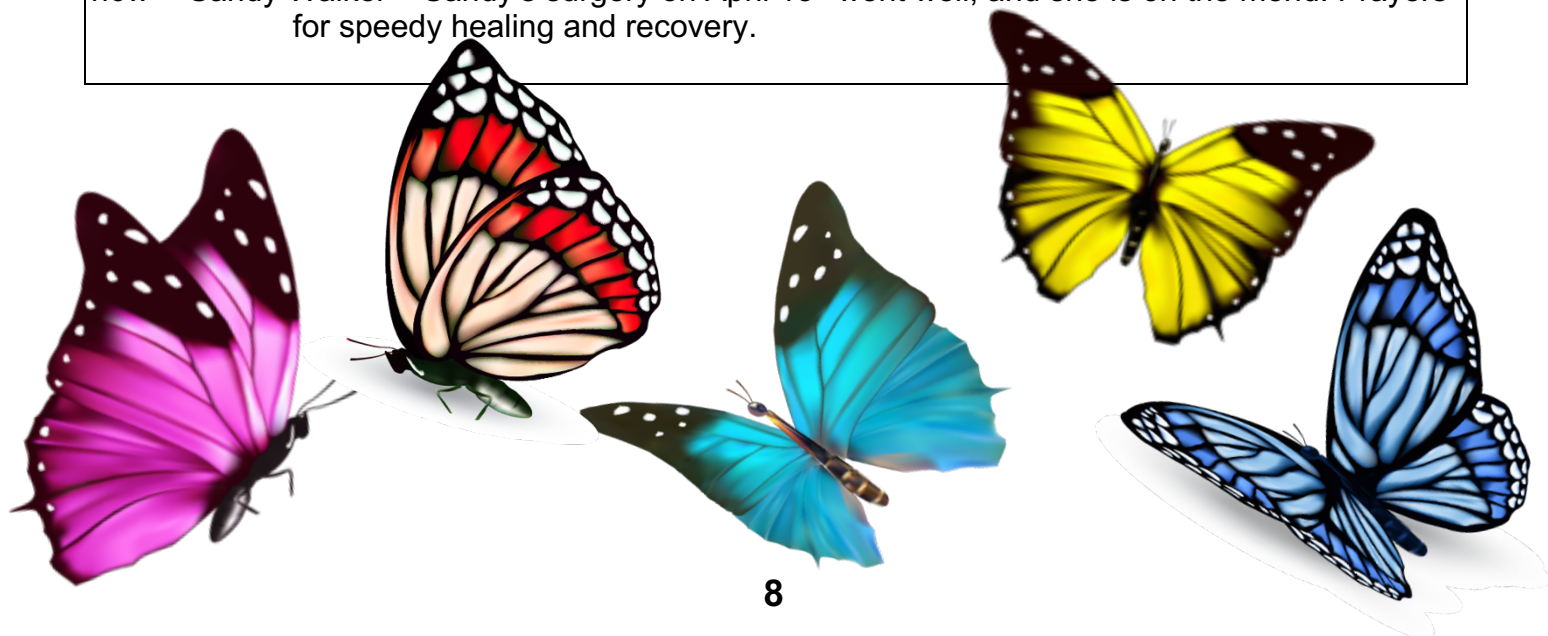
Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*
Hannah Yi, *pianist*

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

new Alvin Knowles – Alvin’s cataract surgery on April 16th was successful, and he now has clearer vision. Prayers of gratitude, and continued healing.

new Sandy Walker – Sandy’s surgery on April 15th went well, and she is on the mend. Prayers for speedy healing and recovery.



Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Flowers are provided by Shirley Bator. Refreshments are provided by the Noemi Albulario. 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: Our community benefits greatly from your Easter Offerings. You may still make a special one-time Easter gift to support the life and ministries of Community Church, in addition to your usual weekly or monthly offerings. Please use the attached Easter Offering envelope.

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 craft tables, "Granny's Attic," and Sandy's Café, 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

"Jesus, Like A Shepherd Lead Us"
Music by William B Bradbury
Words attr. to Dorothy Ann Thrupp
Public Domain

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"
Music by George N. Allen
Arranged by Thomas Andrew Dorsey

"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
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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



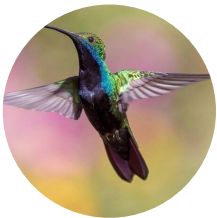
Starfish, like many of our animal siblings, have the ability to regenerate their limbs. Our Native American siblings venerated the starfish for their strength and immortality. The Haida Tribe even has a Starfish Clan.

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 21, 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

Good shepherd, walk beside me through the joy and trouble of this day, and lead me in right paths for your name's sake. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

Good shepherd rest beside me as I take account of my day so far and help me rise again to see the day through. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Good shepherd, remain with me in the dark and stillness of this night, and let me lie down in safety to restore my soul. Amen.