

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 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter: *Hummingbird*



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 — Taylor White

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.
Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.
Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself. Amen.



HYMN: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

For the beau - ty of the Earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
For the joy of hu - man love, spouse, and sib - ling, pa - rent, child,
For thy church, that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
For thy - self, best Gift Di - vine, to the world so free - ly giv'n,

5



for the — love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies;
 hill and — vale, and tree and flow'r, sun, and moon, and stars of light;
 for the — mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight;
 friends on — Earth and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild;
 of - fer-ing up on ev - 'ry shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love;
 for that — great, great love of thine, peace on Earth, and joy in Heav'n:

9 Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

[please be seated]



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Let us join with all creation in praying for the good of the earth, saying,
 God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.

O God, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit whose work at creation continues in us.

Through Christ Jesus you have shown your love for this earth you made.
 We pray that all the world may know your power and goodness

O God, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit whose work at creation continues in us.

Word of life, reveal the wonder of your world to all people. Show us anew
 what lives around us, over us, beneath us, within us. Enliven the church
 with your Spirit, that we may honor your earth with responsible care.

O God, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit whose work at creation continues in us.

Almighty God, uphold our sisters and brothers who endure disasters
 caused by weather, war, famine, sickness, or greed. Strengthen all who are
 in peril, especially the people of Ukraine and Gaza. You are our refuge and
 strength, a very present help in time of trouble.

O God, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit whose work at creation continues in us.



Creator of all good things, bring trust and sympathy to the nations of the world. Let peacemakers reign wherever there is conflict. Give wisdom to leaders to bring your love to the poor.

O God, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit whose work at creation continues in us.

Good healer, we pray for all who are in need of comfort. Comfort those who mourn; uphold those who are sick, or holding vigil, or awaiting words of hope, especially those we name now silently [30 seconds of silence].

O God, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit whose work at creation continues in us.

Trusting in your mercy, we commend to you all those we have named and those whose needs are known only to you, in the name of your Son, Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

[please stand as you are able]



HYMN: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Refrain

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home.

5

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home. **Fine**

9

Verses

1. I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see,
2. If you get there be - fore I do,
3. I'm some - times up and some - times down,

12

com - ing for to car - ry me home? _____ A band _____ of my an - gels
 com - ing for to car - ry me home. _____ Tell all _____ my friends I'm
 com - ing for to car - ry me home. _____ But still _____ my soul feels

15

To Refrain

com - ing af - ter me, _____ com - ing for to car - ry me home.
 com - ing there _____ too, _____ com - ing for to car - ry me home.
 Hea - ven - ly _____ bound, com - ing for to car - ry me home.

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Taylor White

Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Taylor White

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look,

here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

MESSAGE: “What is the Fruit of Your Ministry?” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION: Rev. Johan Dodge

Jesus speaks of being the vine in the Gospel of John this morning and describes God as the vine grower who prunes in some areas and allows other areas to grow to produce the best fruit. As we look around the country today the number of people who claim to be Christian continues to dwindle, leaving us to wonder if we have pruned the right things. The story of Philip with the Eunuch to the Candace of Ethiopia continues the trend that we have seen with Peter in his dreams discovering that God shows no partiality. Indeed, the passage from Isaiah that the eunuch is reading prophesies a time when those who have been shorn will also be accepted as children of God.

REFLECTION: “Give Me Jesus” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Taylor White

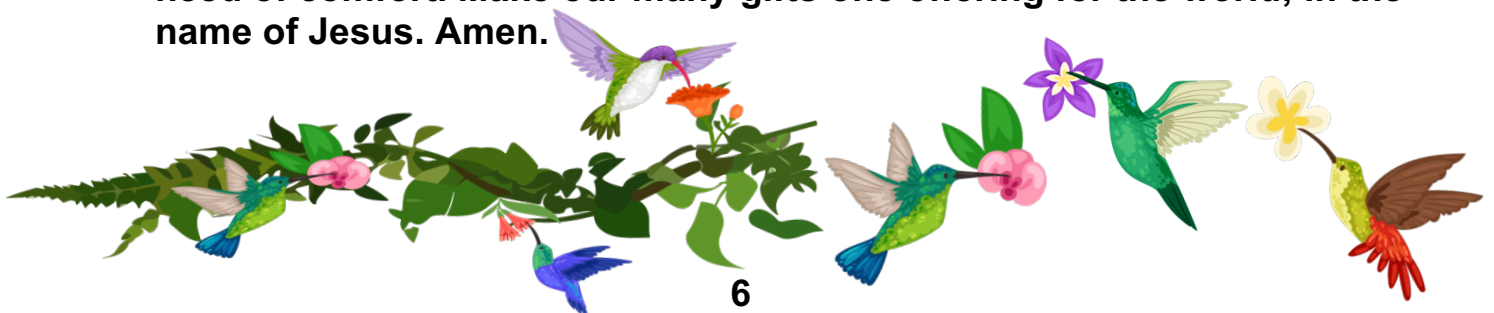
Offering what we have for the sake of others is a discipline of pruning — letting go of our possessions, our time, and even ourselves — to extend the gospel witness into the world. Be generous in your ministry of giving. You need not fear; you abide in the vine.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “How Beautiful” — Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Taylor White

Through our offerings, O God, give your loving Spirit to a world in need of comfort. Make our many gifts one offering for the world; in the name of Jesus. Amen.

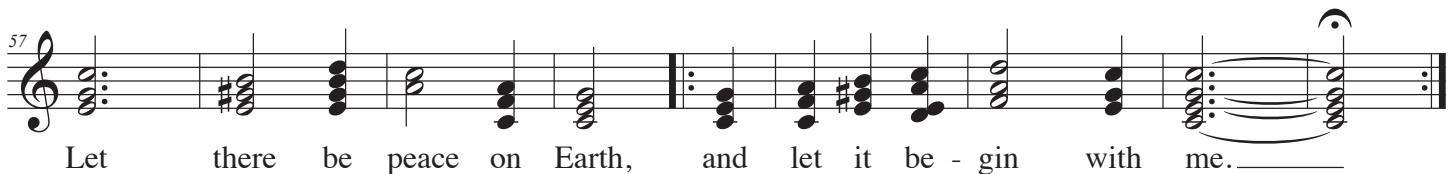
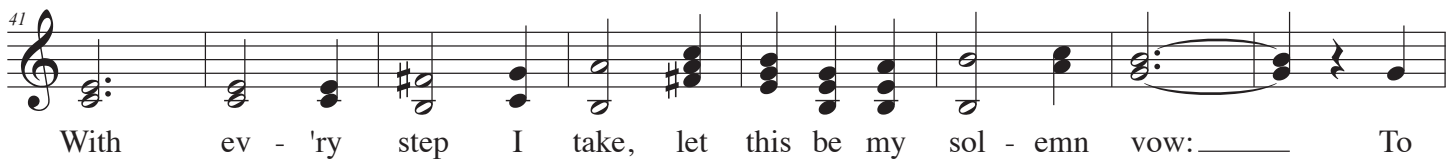
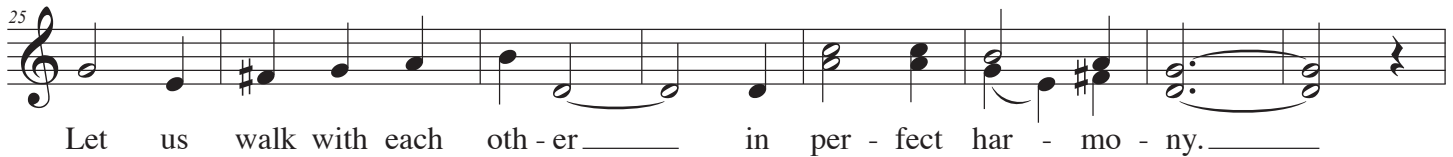
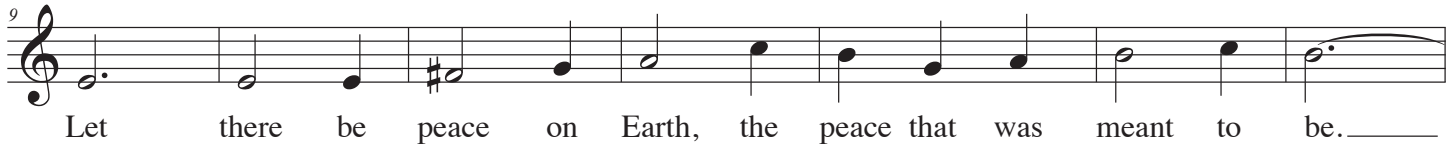


[please stand as you are able]



HYMN: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Flowing rubato ♩ = 100



BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

Go out with joy that you have been fed and healed, securely abiding as branches of the true vine. Go and tell the story of faith that is given to you by the One who never lets you go. Seek out those who abound with sacred questions and be ready to answer a mystery with love. May your story feed those around you. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: “Blessed Be the Tie that Binds”

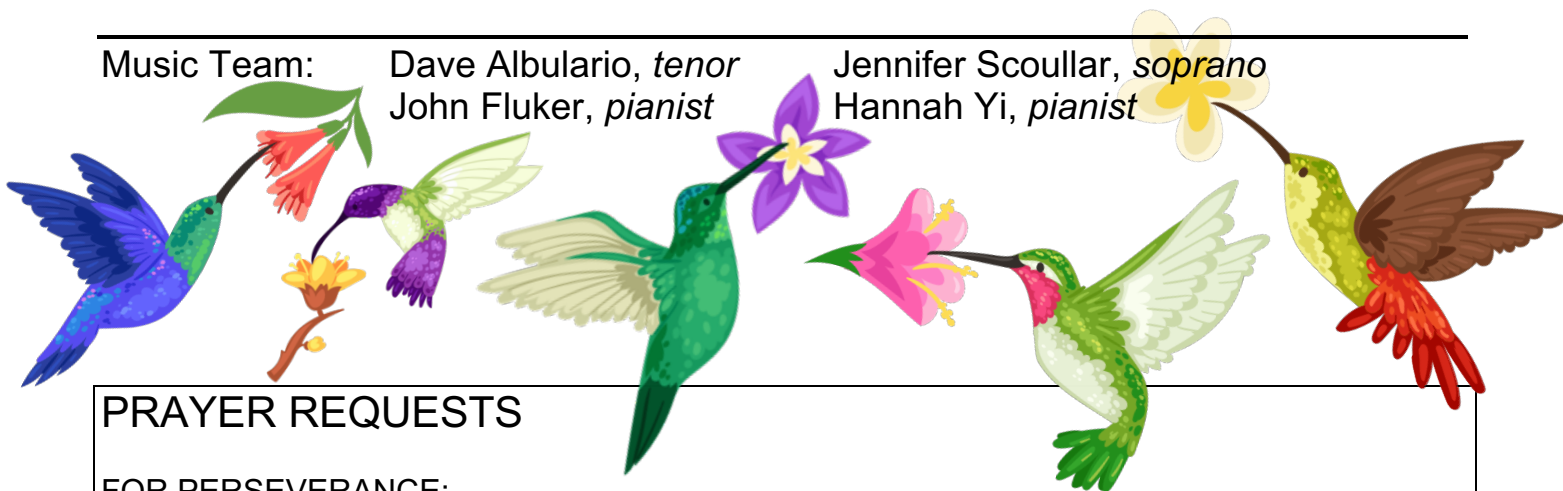
Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love: The
fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove. A - men.

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 is 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 continues the melody and accompaniment.

Music Team:

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

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



PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR PERSEVERANCE:

new Mary Maness – Mary’s son, Mark had a successful surgery, but is still in a lot of pain. Prayers for good results, comfort, and speedy healing. Mary’s own surgery has been postponed to May 7th. Prayers for her surgeon, and for speedy healing and recovery.

new Renate Carnegie – Renate’s grandson-in-law, Deputy Tobin Bolter, age 27, was killed in the line of duty on April 21st in Boise, Idaho. Prayers of comfort and strength for Renate and her family, and peaceful rest for Tobin.

Notes and Announcements:

Coffee Fellowship: Flowers are placed today by Renate Carnegie, in loving memory of Officer Tobin Bolter, our grandson-in-law – forever we will love him.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” – Matthew 5:4

Refreshments are provided by Susie Perslow. 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.

“Spring Fling Bazaar”: To our awesome volunteers, and all those who helped make our “Spring Fling Bazaar” a fun & successful event yesterday: THANK YOU!

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.

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

"For the Beauty of the Earth"
Music by Conrad Kocher
Words by Folliot S. Pierpoint
Arr. By W.H. Monk

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"
Traditional African-American Spiritual
Music & Words attr. to Wallace Willis

"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. Nægeli, 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. Nægeli, 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



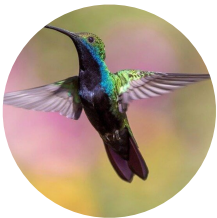
Starfish, like many of our animal siblings, have the ability to regenerate their limbs. Our Native American siblings venerated the starfish for their strength and immortality. The Haida Tribe even has a Starfish Clan.

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 28, 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 all beginnings, you bring a new day, and you promise to journey with me through the hours. I thank you for the breath and strength I have, and I beg your help that I may use my powers wisely and with compassion toward everyone I meet. Let my questions today be a form of pruning to bring forth in me new understandings, healing, and good fruit; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

Wondrous Vine-grower, you make all things new in heaven and earth, nurturing your creation with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the fruit of new possibility. Teach us to nurture what you have blessed each of us with and to prune what does not nourish your creation, in the name of the Creator, Sustainer, and Encourager, now and forever. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Sweet Jesus, in this night of rest, heal my broken places and restore my faith. You are my vine; only in you am I strong enough to face the darkness of this world. I thank you for the safety of my home and pray for those who have no bed tonight. Make me grateful, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Mother of us all. Amen.