

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

Sunday Service: 9:50 AM
562-431-2503

September 1, 2024
15th Sunday after Pentecost

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: "The Lord's Prayer" — Jeanette Williams

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kindom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kindom, and the power, and the glory forever. 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

***[A time of silence is kept between intercessions —
 please use that time to lift those on your heart this day.]***

Let us bring our prayers of intercession to God this day. Let us pray — beloved one, you have called us to your embrace and our hearts overflow with your goodness. Your power endures forever, and you love restoration and loving kindness. Let the fragrance of your love and the grace on your lips anoint us now as we pray for the church, your creation, and all those in need.

Holy God, unshackle your church from the bondage to human tradition, that we may follow you freely and serve others with a pure heart.

Loving God, prune your new creation to bud, blossom, and bring forth fruit as we care for the land and love one another.

Guiding presence, extend your way of compassionate justice in our nations and neighborhoods as we unite with people of good will to do right by those in need.

Source of Love, cause us to care for the abandoned, the bereaved, the weak, and the weary; and let us embrace the distressed, the diseased, the devalued, and the denied.

Guiding Light, make us quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger and let us preserve your perfect love of love. **Amen.**

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of Heav'n to Earth come down,
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - 'ry trou - bled breast;
 3. Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Kind and lov - ing let us be;

Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Let us all in Thee in - her - it, Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
 Be for us our one foun - da - tion, May we find our strength in Thee.

Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
 Take a - way our bent to sin - ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, E'er with you we take our place,

Vis - it us with Thy in - car - na - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 'Til we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Jeanette Williams

Loving God, by the power of your Spirit, open our hearts and minds to receive your Word that we not forget the wonders you have done, nor neglect to make them known to our children, nor fail to tell them to the world. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Jeanette Williams

James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

MESSAGE: “Do It” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

How can we know the difference between human tradition and the commandments of God? How can we know that we serve God from the heart?

REFLECTION: “Love Lifted Me”— John Flucker, *piano (playing his own arrangement)*

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

We offer both white and red grape juice. If you are afraid of spilling red grape juice, a limited number of cups with white grape juice are provided.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Here at Community Church, we celebrate “Open Communion.” Anyone who wishes to commune may come to God’s Table. You do not have to be sinless; God forgives you. You do not have to be perfect; God encourages

you to grow. You need not belong to any church; God invites all people to this meal. It is enough to love and follow God with all your heart. This is what God asks us to do. Come to God's Table in faith this day. Go from this place to live, and never be the same again. Let us commune as siblings in Christ.

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 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). 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.**

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD:

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

THE SHARING OF THE CUP:

The bread which we have eaten is a sharing in the bread of Christ. The cup over which we give thanks is the sharing in the cup of Christ.

UNISON PRAYER:

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Jeanette Williams

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Source of lights. Filled with God's generosity, let us offer our gifts with gladness. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

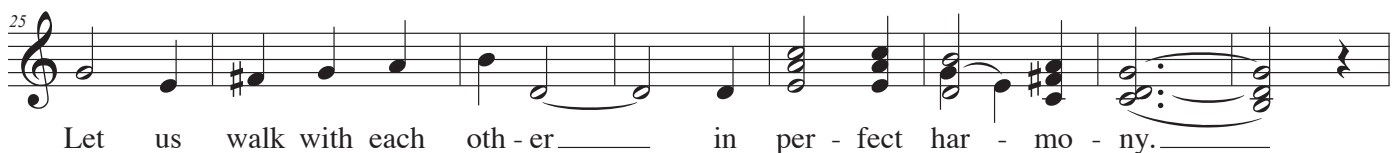
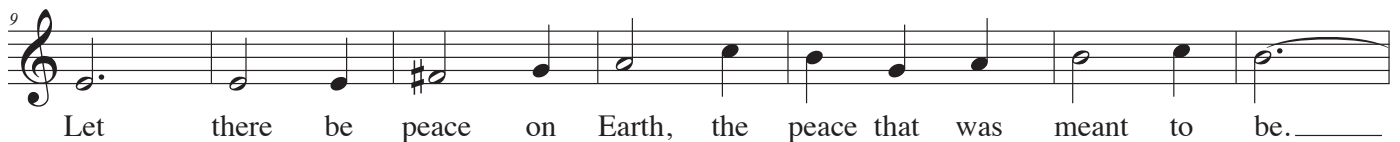
OFFERTORY: "Because You Loved Me" — Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Jeanette Williams

Loving God, receive these gifts from the work of your church. With these gifts we dedicate ourselves to live in the truth of your word, and follow your commandments with sincere hearts; through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"



41

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

49

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

57

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

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

The blessing of God be with you, the love of Jesus fill you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH: “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* Dave Albulario, *tenor*
John Fluker, *pianist* Hannah Yi, *pianist*

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, *Arr. by W.H. Monk*
Words by Folliot S. Pierpoint

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
Tune: *BEECHER* by John Zundel,
Words by Charles Wesley

"Love Lifted Me"
Music by Howard E. Smith
Piano Arrangement by John Fluker

"Because You Loved Me"
Music and Words by Diane Warren,
Produced by David Foster

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"
Music & Words by Sy Miller & Jill Jackson
© 1955, 1983; Arr. Copyright © 1991 by Jan
Lee Music, Beverly Hills, California

"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

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

LEISURE WORLD COMMUNITY CHURCH
14000 Church Pl, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562-431-2503
CCLI License No. 1872250

PRAYER REQUESTS

new Phyllis Poper – Phyllis Levonne Lawton Poper passed away peacefully on August 24th, at the age of 102 years. Her son, Jim Poper sends his gratitude to our LWCC congregation for the love, support and prayers. He said, "I truly believe that your prayers assisted in her peaceful passing." Prayers of comfort, strength, and love for the Poper family, and peaceful rest for Phyllis. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to:

The Long Beach City College Foundation
Richard and Phyllis Poper Scholarship Fund
4901 E. Carson St., Long Beach, CA 90808
562-938-4267 or 562-938-4139

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Flowers for today's service are provided anonymously, and refreshments are provided by Jenny Chang. See the sign-up charts to provide refreshments or cover the cost of altar flowers for future services. Altar flowers are \$35. Sandy Walker coordinates arrangements.

FALL FLING: Mark your calendar for our "Fall Fling Bazaar" on Saturday, October 5, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We'll feature a variety of vendors, a yummy Bake Sale with plenty of sweets & treats, creative craft tables, collections of old and new items from "Granny's Attic," and Sandy's Café will be serving lunch.

LWCC ANNIVERSARY: LW Community Church's 62nd Anniversary is Sunday, October 6, 2024. After Sunday service, we'll celebrate the momentous occasion together during Fellowship in Edgar Hall.

August 25, 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

Living God, give me strength for this day. Let your truth surround me, your righteousness defend me, your gospel guide me, your trustworthiness shield me, and your salvation protect me that in every moment i may stand by the power of your Spirit and live by your holy Word. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

Living God, your Son Jesus has the words of eternal life. Grant that I may come to him in faith this afternoon to follow him in this world. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, as the day ends and the night begins, be near the brokenhearted, save the crushed in spirit, and redeem the life of your servants. You are our shield by day. Be our refuge by night so that we may rest in the confidence of your grace; through Christ our Lord. Amen.