

COMMUNITY CHURCH

LEISURE
WORLD

LIGHTING
A pathway into community

GROWING
Disciples in God's Love

SENDING
The Hope and Joy of Jesus

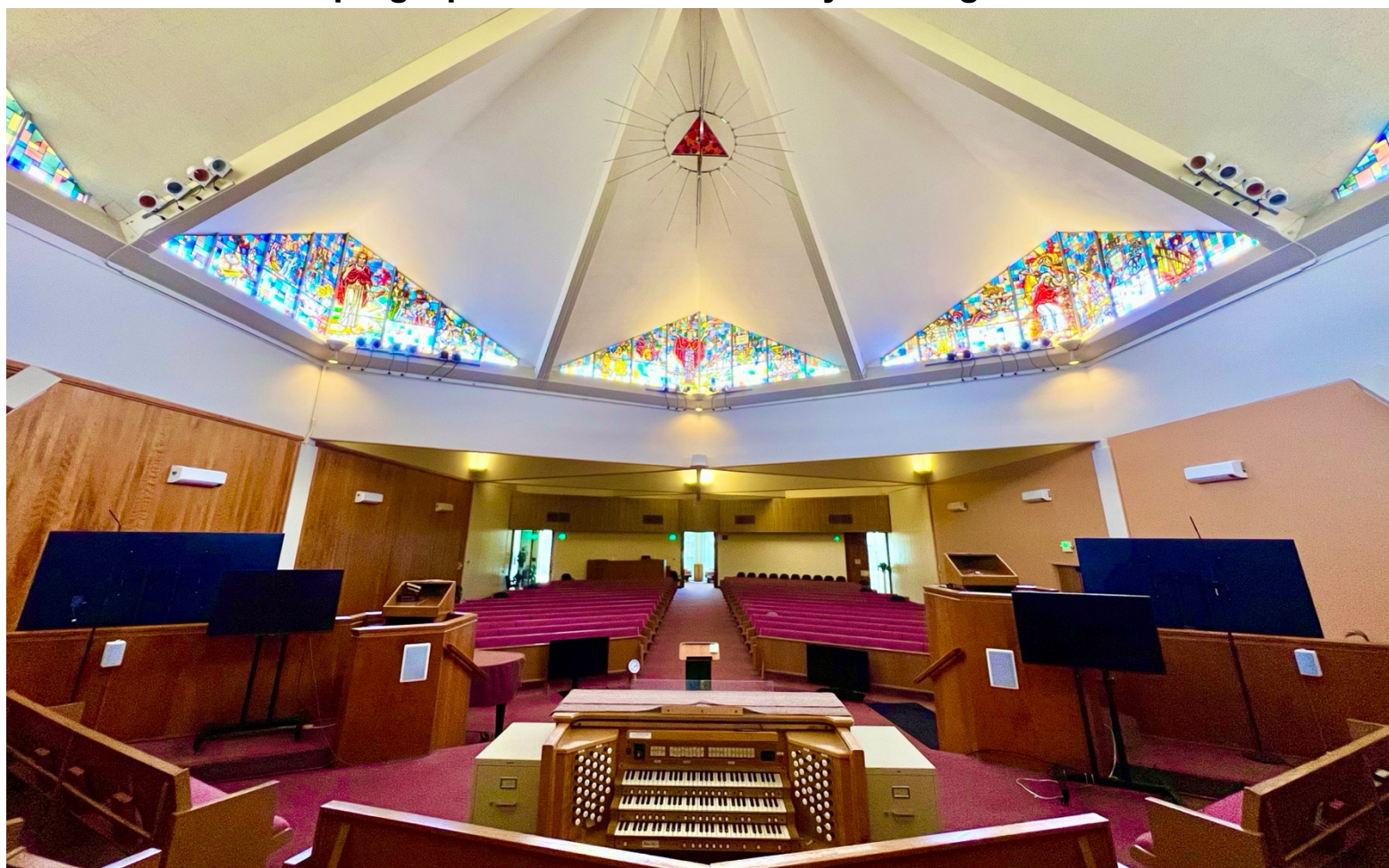
Our Vision: To Be Love to Leisure World

14000 Church Place
Seal Beach, CA 90740-5307

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

September 8, 2024
16th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: "Keeping Up with the Joneses" by visiting Rev. Lisa Williams



OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Lisa Williams

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

God of Love, you show your people how to be truly rich in faith, through the gifts you give when least hoped for or expected. Come to your people today with the words of life that we may serve with justice and mercy. We pray this in your holy triune name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God Mother of us all. Amen.

HYMN: "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me;
2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voi - ces of truth thou send - est clear;
3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev' - ry - where;

5

Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and set me free;
And while the wave-notes fall on my ear, ev'-ry-thing false will dis-ap-pear;
O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy child-ren, thus to share;

5

9

Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, rea-dy, my God, thy

9

12

will to see; O - pen my eyes, il-lu-mine me, Spi-rit di-vine! —

12

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Lisa Williams

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

Confident that God hears us and knows our needs, let us be in prayer together. Gracious healer, you visit us when we are in pain and worry. You spread your hands on our wounds. You bring peace and freedom. Visit your churches and synagogues, mosques and ashrams, monastic cells, temples, dojos, and places of prayer in every land. For the well-being of all people, make us one as we lift those without faith who are on our hearts this day.

Creator of beauty and surprising complexity, we long for the wisdom we need in order to cherish this earth. Give us the vision to see what you have made — vast expanses of prairie, forests dark and thick, oceans full of wondrous creatures, and the heavens bigger than our imaginations. Show us how to shepherd your creation as good stewards even as we lift in prayer those places suffering from storms of wind and flood.

Liberator of the captive, you know the failings of the nations when we turn our friends and neighbors into enemies. Free our lands from despotic rulers, tricksters, people who lie for personal gain, and those who wield hate speech. Give courage and perseverance to those who are weary of the struggles for justice so that new life and strength will infuse their tired bones. We lift in prayer, those places still at war with one another as we name them now.

Savior, we see the desperation of our siblings as well as ourselves, and knowing your love for what you have made, we humbly ask for your promises to be fulfilled: waters in the desert, healing in the time of death, protection from whatever is frightening, restoration for those who are without help. This day, O God, I lift in prayer ...

Holy God, we pray for those who grow our food and keep our water clean, of politicians who make good laws and judges who rule with compassion, for children, for elders, for parents and grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends and strangers. **Amen.**

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "In Christ There Is No East or West"

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in Him no south or
 2. In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their high com - mu - nion
 3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your race may

north, but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through - out the whole wide Earth.
 find; His ser - vice is the gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 be. All child - ren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Marylee Thomsen

Holy God, whose Spirit comes to us in moments of both strength and weakness, come now into our midst that we might be able to hear your word in fullness and in truth, through Jesus, the Christ. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Marylee Thomsen

James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17

^{2:1}My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

MESSAGE: “Keeping Up with the Joneses” — Rev. Lisa Williams

REFLECTION: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” — John Fluker, *piano*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Marylee Thomsen

Those who are generous are blessed, through the good name of Jesus from whom we have been shown the love of God. For the abundance of God’s love, let us present our gifts of gratitude, that we and these gifts may be a blessing to our community. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: "Over the Rainbow" — Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Marylee Thomsen

Generous God, thank you for these gifts we bring from your abundance. Bless these gifts and magnify their impact upon our community, that we might show love to all of those in need in our community. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

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

49

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

57

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

BLESSING — Rev. Lisa Williams

Our Generous God has blessed us and surrounded us with favor forever, that we may love our neighbors as ourselves. Share your bread with those in need, advocate for the afflicted, show your faith in acts of kindness, and may we go forth to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. **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*

Doxology (*Old Hundredth LM*)
Music by Louis Bourgeois, 1551
Words by Thomas Ken, 1674

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"
Music and Words by Clara H. Scott
Public Domain. Source: Hymnary.org

"In Christ There Is No East or West"
Music by Alexander Robert Reinagle
Words by John Oxenham

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"
Tune: *OLIVET* by Dr. Lowell Mason
Piano Arrangement by Fred Bock

"Over the Rainbow"
Music by Harold Arlen,
Words by Yip Harburg

"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. Nägeli, 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
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562-431-2503
CCLI License No. 1872250

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."

PRAYER REQUESTS

Doris Smith – Doris's sister, Gladys Walters, in Liverpool, England has passed away. Unable to travel, Doris is connected to family by phone. Separated by distance, they are grateful for their peace and reliance on God. Prayers of comfort and strength to Doris and her family, and peaceful rest for Gladys.

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 by Steve Martinez, and refreshments (baked at home with love) are provided by Carol Graves & Virginia Olejnik. 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.

September 8, 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

Holy God, I thank you for another day, whether it brings the sort of happiness for which I always hope or the challenges I sometimes fear. Each day in your presence is time to notice the marvels of creation that surround me. Help me to see them today and to move gracefully from one hour to the next, in the name of your holy and miraculous ways. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

Good and constant God, I endeavor to love my neighbor as myself today. Yet the needs are great that I find my heart failing and my faith falling short. In your mercy, let the power of the Holy Spirit surround me with strength as I continue in this day. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Giver of all good things, you have been at my side, beneath, above, and within me all day long, and I thank you for your presence. I thank you now, as well, that as I grow weary, you have given me a place to lay my head. Watch over all who sleep this night, especially those who have no shelter. Guard them and keep all your people in safety, in Jesus name. Amen.