



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

December 22, 2024

7th Sunday of Extended Advent

*New is
Simple
Do It
Anyway*



**COMMUNITY
CHURCH LEISURE
WORLD**

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.

ADVENT 7 — Virginia Olejnik

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,
we look on these earthly signs — light and green branches — and
remember God's promise to our world:

ALL: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.

Listen to the words of the gospel of Matthew:

"... an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.'" — Matthew 4:1-3

Candle Lighters: Lois & Jim Dimos

[As the candles are lit, all stand as you are able and sing:]

CALL TO WORSHIP: Doxology for Advent ("O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise and
O come, o come, Em - ma - nu - el, and

God, all crea - tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye
ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly

heav'n - ly host: Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.
ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall

come to thee, O Is - - - ra - el.

Liturgist — Virginia Olejnik
Let us pray ...

ALL: Lord Jesus Christ, in your resurrection you appeared as the Morning Star that knows no setting: Dawn upon the darkness of the human heart so that the deathly orders of this world may be overcome and your whole creation made new; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See Him in a man - ger laid, Whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

And the moun-tains in re - ply E - cho - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad-some ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heav'n-ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend-ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.

9

Glo - - - - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!

15

Glo - - - - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!

The image shows two systems of musical notation for a hymn. Each system consists of a treble and a bass staff. The first system starts at measure 9 and the second at measure 15. The lyrics 'Glo - - - - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!' are written below the staves. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. There are various musical notations including eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

[A time of silence is kept after each petition.]

Holy God, you reveal yourself in so many ways, especially in your son, Jesus Christ. We gather up the prayers of this community for the church, the world, and all in need, confident that you know our deepest thoughts and will refresh our spirits. We pray in the name of the One who transforms principalities and powers and renews the heavens and the earth, Christ our Savior.

For the church: We pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ who gather as we do on this day all over the world in house churches and storefronts, on reservations, in townships and base communities, among immigrants, in hospital chapels and prisons, and with persons who are dying. Wherever the church is found on frontiers of mission and service, empower its witness to strengthen and stretch the vision of your people.

For the earth and all creatures: We pray for the healing and well-tending of all that you have given us; for water and air, soil and stars; for creatures that roam the seas and those that fly thousands of miles in migration; for mammals and reptiles, insects and microbes in swamps and forests and in our own homes. Show us their beauty and our need for them.

For an end to violence, oppression, and injustice: We pray for all who sing with Mary a song of joy for deliverance; for all people who long to hear your promise of good news; for all peacemakers; for governments that hold at the heart of their work the needs of people otherwise invisible; for all people left homeless and destitute by the greed of others. Lead your people from darkness to light.

For Mary and Joseph in every land: We pray for all people who face the enormous vocation of raising children; for biological parents and adopting parents, for grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends; for children who long for a parent's or guardian's love and care; for children who will be born today; and especially for those born into hunger and insecurity. Let the light of your desire for our well-being shine through all children.

For those we hold dear and those who have asked for our prayers: We pray for everyone who is in any need today: for the lonely; for all people who are anxious at this time of year; for our elders in the nursing home; for people who cannot find work and those whose work is not life-giving for them; for ...

For our own lives: We pray that Mary's song of joy and Joseph's loyalty will be magnified in us. Fill us with the breath of Advent. Stir us to extend ourselves beyond what we thought possible. Show us that like Mary, we need not fear. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great. We remember with thanksgiving the faithful who have gone before us, especially ...

As your light shines on us through them, guide us to so enlighten others. With the whole church, we cry "Let it be," trusting in your word. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. The first system covers the first line of the hymn: "Go, — tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry-where;". The second system covers the second line: "go, — tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born." The score concludes with a double bar line and the word "Fine".

Go, — tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry-where;

go, — tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born.

Fine

9

While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled, when lo! a - bove the earth, rang
 Down in the low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, so

14

hold through-out the heav - ens there shown a ho - ly light.____
 out the an - gel cho - rus to her - ald Je - sus' birth.____
 God could be here with us that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.____

D.C. al Fine

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Virginia Olejnik

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Virginia Olejnik

Micah 5:2-5

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

Luke 1:39-45

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry,

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

MESSAGE: “New Is Simple – Do It Anyway” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Where do you see the light of Christ magnified in your personal life? Where do you see the light of Christ magnified in your family and community? Where might you bring the light of Christ to those around you who have judged the light to be darkness and have turned away?

REFLECTION: “Away in a Manger” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Virginia Olejnik

God does not desire us to bring burnt offerings and sin offerings, but instead asks that we overcome me to be the we of the body of Christ. So we bring to God now the offerings of our lives and our labors, with the understanding that God’s will may be done through them. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Ding Dong! Merrily on High” — Music Team:

Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*

Dave Albulario, *tenor*

Hannah Yi, *pianist*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Virginia Olejnik

You deliver us, O God, from exile, separation, and despair into communion with each other, with you, and with your good news. We thank you for all that draws us close together, astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude. Accept our gifts as signs of our gratitude for what you give us every day and as honor to your presence in the world; for the sake of those who stand in need and Jesus Christ who shows us the way to save them. 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

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

May the God of justice be your path, the Lord of mercy be your guide, and the Spirit of love be your light, this day 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*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Dir.*
John Fluker, *Pianist*

Doxology for Advent (*Veni, Immanuel*)
15th Century French Hymn, Words by
Thomas Ken, Text and Tune adapted by
Dean McIntyre

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
French Carol: *GLORIA*, Setting by Edward S.
Barnes (before 1916), Translation by James
Chadwick (1862), Public Domain, *Open*
Hymnal Project, 2005 Revision

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”
African American Spiritual
First published by John Wesley Work, Jr.

“Away in a Manger”
Music by James Ramsey Murray;
Piano Arrangement by Glenda Austin

“Ding Ding! Merrily on High”
Tune: *BRANLE DE L'OFFICIAL* by Thoinot
Arbeau (1588); Harmony by Charles Wood;
Words by George Ratcliffe Woodward

“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.*

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PRAYER REQUESTS

- new Jay Young** – Jay and Connie Young request prayer as Jay begins some medication therapy. Prayers for effective treatment and healing.
- new Doris Smith** – Doris is at UCI Health Los Alamitos, where she is being monitored for health issues. She is in good spirits and enjoyed a brief visit from the Care Team. Cards are welcome.
- new Nancy Trujillo** – Continuing prayers of healing for Nancy, who is in the hospital dealing with health concerns.
- new Rev. Don Roe** – Former LWCC pastor, Rev. Don Roe passed away Tuesday, December 3, 2024. He served Community Church from 2014 to 2018. Prayers of comfort for his family, and peaceful rest for Pastor Don. *His memorial will take place on Saturday, February 2, 2025 at 10:30 AM, at St. Matthew's UMC, 15653 Newton St, Hacienda Heights 91745. Attire: **Dodger Blue**.*

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and FELLOWSHIP: Poinsettias are provided today by members of our congregation (see Poinsettia Donor List below). Fellowship refreshments are provided today by Phyllis Spencer. 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.

LITURGISTS: Each Sunday our Liturgists read aloud our scripture readings for Worship Service. As we prepare the schedule for the coming year, if you are interested in becoming a Liturgist, you are invited to speak with Phyllis Spencer, who will lead this ministry in 2025.

CHRISTMAS EVE: Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service: Lessons & Carols, which will take place on December 24th at 4:00 PM.

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR: Coffee with the Pastor will **not** meet this week or next week. We will resume on Thursday, January 9th.

POINSETTIAS GIVEN WITH LOVE

Donated by

In Memory / Honor of

LW Korean Community Church.....	Friendship with LW Community Church
Mo Ashley.....	Don & Rosie Ashley
Sandy Cardot.....	Kenneth & Dorothea Haviland Linda Haviland
Lois & Jim Dimos.....	Love, Peace, Joy, & Hope
Carmen Edwards.....	My Son, Lionel Garcia
Joyce Reed.....	My Husband, Jim; & My Son, Mike
Patty Jo Schmitz.....	My Son, B.C. Keller
Marylee Thomsen.....	The Thomsen Family

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."



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

Thank you, good and gracious God, for the morning light, for another day in which to live out what it means that you have magnified my soul and the souls of those around me in this world. Teach me the meaning of “Let it be.” Show me how to trust; in Jesus name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

Stir up your power, O God, and come to set me free by the righteousness of your birth in my midst, by the light of your face shining upon me, and by becoming our sibling, our friend, our teacher. We pray this in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, mother of us all. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Good and gracious God, we give you thanks that you have made incarnate in your world the breath of life, the life of hope. Keep us safe throughout the night that in the morning we may again rejoice and live in peace with all creation; in Jesus’ name. Amen.