

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 29, 2024

*5th Day of Christmas &
1st Sunday of Christmastide*

To Be A **Part II** *Manger*



**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.

[please stand as you are able]

CALL TO WORSHIP: Christmas Doxology ("O Tannenbaum" / "O Christmas Tree")

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow, in ev-'ry gen - er -

a - tion. Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low, the

bless - ed in - car - na - tion. Praise God a - bove, ye

heav'n - ly host, Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Let

all cre - a - tion praise the Lord with love and ad - or - a - tion.

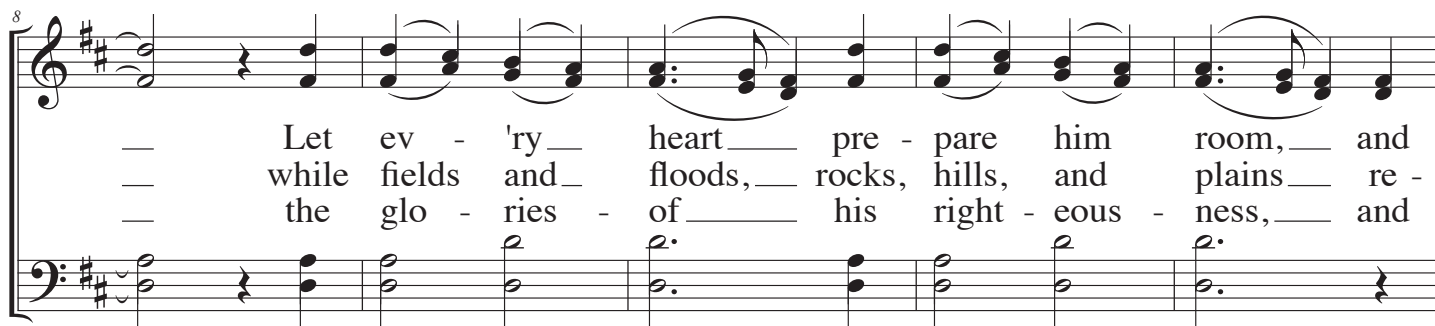
PRAYER OF THE DAY: "The Lord's Prayer" — Phyllis Spencer

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: "Joy to the World"



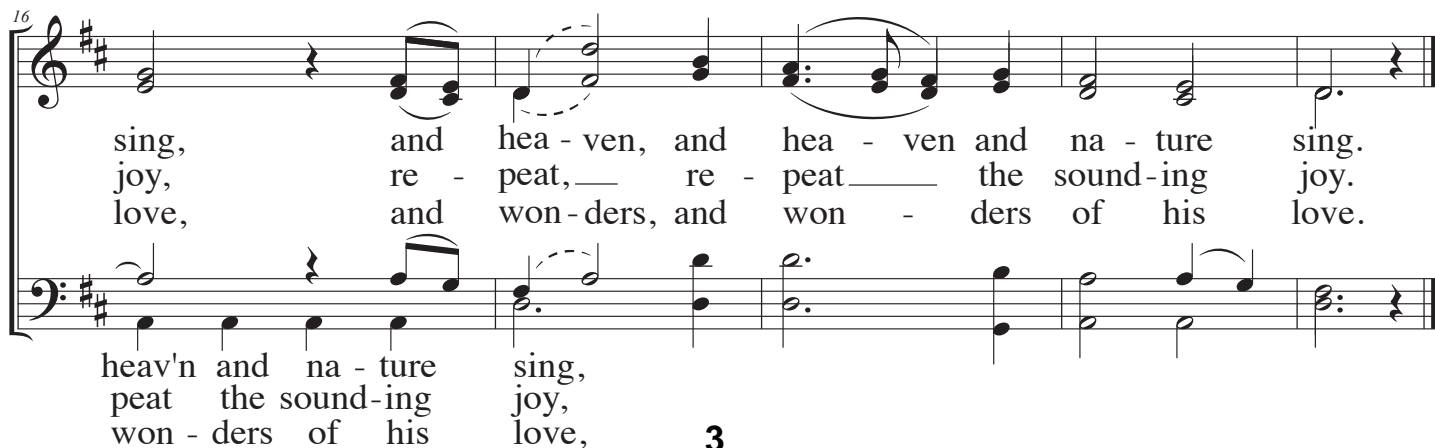
Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth re-ceive her king.—
Joy to the earth! The Sav-ior reigns. Let all our songs em-ploy,—
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions prove—



— Let ev-'ry heart pre-pare him room, and
— while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re-
— the glo-ries of his right-eous-ness, and



heav'n and na-ture sing, and heav'n and na-ture
peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing
won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his
and re-peat the sound-ing sing, and
and won-ders of his joy, re-
and love, and



sing, and hea-ven, and hea-ven and na-ture sing.
joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.
love, and won-ders, and won-ders of his love.
heav'n and na-ture sing,
peat the sound-ing joy,
won-ders of his love,

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

Siblings, in Jesus, God's Word became flesh to birth love in our hearts and peace in our world.

Your messenger announces peace in shouts of breathless joy; drive out the warring ways of our world and protect all who face danger this day as you guide our feet to travel with the One who is your peace.

Your Word comes with justice to rule the earth with fairness; inspire the leaders of all nations and citizens of the world to order our economic lives to promote dignity and equality for all in your global household.

Mountains and rivers clap and sing as your Word makes all things new; awaken us to the damage we do to your world and mend our ways, that all creation might breathe again the liveliness of your blessing.

When shepherds met your newborn Christ, they eagerly ran to tell the news; make us joyful messengers of your good news who freely share your love in the world.

In Jesus, your love takes on human form to seek us out and guide us home; may Christ be born in us today to lead us into the lives for which we were made.

From your majesty on high to the lowliness of the stable, your Word has power to sustain all things, and through him we become your precious children; comfort those who are hungry, sick, or suffering, and in all our afflictions anoint us with the oil of gladness as you visit us with your salvation.

Unto us a child is born this day, to live and die and rise again; bless all who are born today and all who will die, that your will for them may be fulfilled in the one who is the way, truth, and life.

O God, receive our prayers through Christ who is our glorious light. May we, like him, shine forth like the sun in bodies, breath, and beating hearts to sing your praise forevermore, and as holy partners in a heavenly calling, dwell with you eternally. **Amen.**

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "O Holy Night"

O ho - ly night, the stars are bright - ly shin - ing, it is the
night of the dear Sav - ior's birth. Long lay the
world in sin and er - ror pin - ing, 'til He ap - peared and the
soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the wear - y world re -
joi - ces, for yon - der breaks a new and glo - rious morn.____
Fall____ on your knees,____ oh, hear____ the an - gel voic - es, O
night____ di - vine,____ O night____ when Christ was born.____ O
night____ di - vine,____ O night, O night di - vine!____ O
night____ di - vine,____ O night, O night di - vine!____

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Phyllis Spencer

By the breath of your Spirit inspire us, that in the hearing of your Word we may be filled with new understanding and fresh desire to please you in all we do, for the sake of your Son, Jesus. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Phyllis Spencer

Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

MESSAGE: "To Be A Manger, Part II" — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Numbers often have deeper meaning in the Scriptures. Here, Jesus is absent from his family for three days foreshadowing the three days in the tomb which will be here before we know it. Where have you experienced important time away and how did that time shape your movement forward? Are you due for some time away soon?

REFLECTION: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" — John Fluker, *pianist & arranger*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Phyllis Spencer

With grateful hearts, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God, in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: "Once in Royal David's City" —

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Phyllis Spencer

Loving God: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, that we may be Christ for others. In his name we pray. 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 Christ inhabit you, the Father/Mother uphold you, and the Spirit sustain you, so that whatever you do, in word or deed — you do it in the love of God. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH: “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Tenor) and piano accompaniment. It is in 3/4 time and the key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the lyrics written below the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes that support the vocal lines.

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*
John Fluker, *Pianist*

Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Dir.*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

Christmas Doxology (*O, Tannenbaum*)
Traditional German Carol, Words by Thomas
Ken; adapt. Dale A. Schoening

“Joy to the World”
Tune: *ANTIOCH* by Georg Friedrich Händel;
adapt. & arr. by Lowell Mason; Words by
Isaac Watts, alt.

“O Holy Night”
Music by Adolphe Adam, English Words by
John Sullivan Dwight based on *CANTIQUE*
DE NOËL by Placide Cappeau

“It Came upon a Midnight clear”
Music by Music by Richard S. Willis;
Piano Arrangement by John Fluker

“Once in Royal David’s City”
Music by Henry J. Gauntlett, Harmonized by
A. H. Mann; Words by Cecil Frances Alexander

“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 Nancy Trujillo – Nancy passed away Sunday morning, December 22, 2024. Prayers of comfort and strength for her family, and peaceful rest for Nancy.

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: Flowers are provided today by Fred & Wilma Wind. Fellowship refreshments are provided today by Noemi Albulario. 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.

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR: Coffee with the Pastor will *not* meet this 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."



December 29, 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

Lord Jesus, as you listened to your teachers, may I also, this day, listen to others with care and grace, and receive whatever wisdom they may offer. Amen.

Household Prayer: Midday

O God, into a realm of clerics and kings you sent your child to teach the wise and show the world the power that is in love. Keep me vigilant this day, to hear the voices of those who speak your love in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, you know every struggle I have faced this day: let me sleep in peace, confident in your great love in Jesus Christ. Amen.