

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

January 12, 2025

Baptism of the Lord

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



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: — Virginia Olejnik

Holy God, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus for the healing of the human race and all creation. By water and word you lovingly invite us into this same life-giving mission. May your Spirit, moving like a stream of water flowing from its source, work in us this day to realize your vision of a world made new in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

HYMN: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
Shep - herds, in the field a - bi - ding, watch - ing o'er your
Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions

all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry
flocks by night, God with us is now re - si - ding;
beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: Come and wor - ship,
yon - der shines the in - fant - light:
ye have seen his na - tal star:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

3

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

Glorious God, as Jesus prayed at his baptism, your mothering Spirit brooded over him, providing sustenance and strength. So, brood over us today as we offer our prayers for the church and world.

We pray for your church: may your word spark our lives with truth and joy as we serve one another to the glory of your name.

We pray for all leaders and people around the globe: may your justice provoke us to shape a peaceful world where all work for the common good.

We pray for the well-being of your creation: may your goodness startle us to the horror of our exploitation and abuse.

We pray for all who suffer grief or sickness of any kind: may your tender presence abide with us and hasten our healing.

We pray for all who lack the essentials of life: may your righteousness raise us up to walk together with respect and dignity for all.

We pray for those who have died, that your steadfast love may shelter them in the peace of your eternal light.

O God, you have made us, formed us, and called us by name, and you have redeemed us in Christ. Receive our prayers this day, for your life-giving Spirit is powerful to save. **Amen.**

ANTHEM: “Down to the River to Pray” — Music Team

*The **LWCC Vocal Quartet** joins us today
in memory of **Joanna Matos**, courtesy of **The Matos Family**.*

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Virginia Olejnik

Glorious God, when Jesus was baptized for your healing mission the heavens opened in a flash of glory as vision and voice blazed upon the waters. May your Spirit so burn in us that we hear your word translated into deed and follow Jesus in paths of justice, right relationship, and peace. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Virginia Olejnik

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

MESSAGE: “Baptism of the Lord” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

How may I live in the power of the Holy Spirit this day? What in my life is like chaff that the Holy Spirit burns away in order for me to live as a free and faithful child of God?

REFLECTION: “Pie Jesu” — John Flucker, *pianist & arranger*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Virginia Olejnik

As people who have passed through the waters of baptism, let us make our grateful offering to God our Redeemer. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Away in a Manger” — Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Virginia Olejnik

O God, at his baptism, you acknowledged Jesus as your beloved Son, and through him you opened to us a way to become your children by grace. May these gifts we return to you be a sign of our dedication to live as your faithful daughters and sons, born in the waters of baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ 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

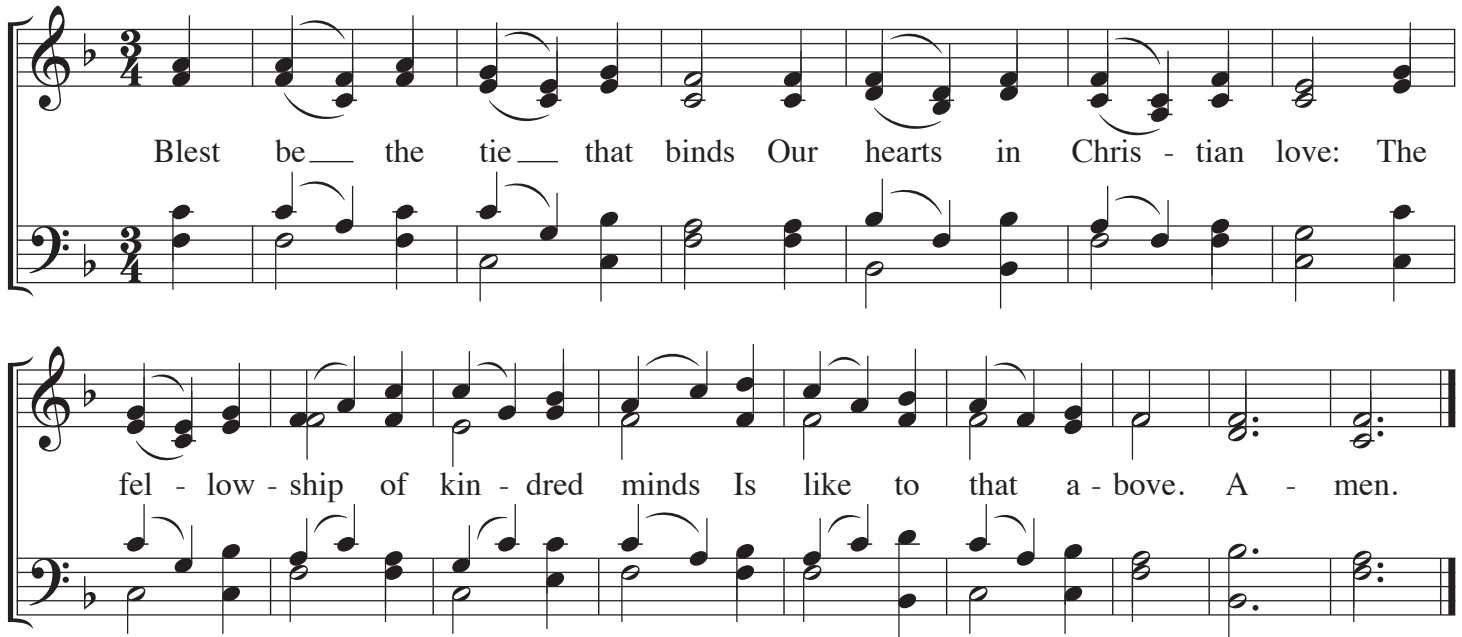
take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly;____

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

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who stood with sinners on the riverbank, uphold you. Amen. May the love of God, who calls us beloved children, bless you. Amen. May the power of the Holy Spirit, who descended upon Jesus as a dove, give you peace. **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*
John Fluker, *Pianist*
Bridget Sullivan, *Guest Alto*

Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Dir.*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*
Jim Orr, *Guest Bass*

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

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"
Tune: *REGENT SQUARE* Music by Henry T.
Smart, Words by James Montgomery based on
Luke 2:8-20, Matthew 2:1-12, & Malachi 3:1

"Down to the River to Pray"
Traditional African-American Folk Song
Trans. by G.H. Allan; Harmony Trans. by
Jackson Henry; Adapt. By David Albulario

"Pie Jesu"
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Piano Arrangement by John Fluker

"Away in a Manger"
Tune: *CRADLE SONG* Music by William J.
Kirkpatrick; Copyright 2007 Musicnotes, Inc.

"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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562-431-2503
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PRAYER REQUESTS

new Mary Maness – Mary had a fall on January 2nd. Prayers for speedy recovery and healing.

new Alvin Knowles – Alvin was treated at the VA Hospital in Long Beach for influenza and RSV. He is now recovering at home. Prayers that he gets well and feels better soon.

new Linda Hildreth – Linda is receiving chemotherapy for cancer. Prayers that the treatment and medical care are both healing and effective, and that she returns to good health soon.

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 Nancy Westcott. Fellowship refreshments are provided today by Sandy Cardot. 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.

END-OF-YEAR STATEMENTS: If you wish to receive an End-of-Year Giving Statement of your 2024 donations, please see Phyllis Spencer.

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR: This Thursday, January 16th, join Pastor Johan for Coffee with the Pastor, a weekly time of fellowship and check-in over coffee, and perhaps a little conversation around the book *Cultivating Christlikeness: Loving as Jesus Loved*.

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."

January 12, 2025



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

Loving God, we begin this new day in the sure knowledge that you have claimed us as your children. In all that we do, keep us mindful of actions that are pleasing in your sight. In all that we say, make us attentive to the witness we give to your love. Let our lives be an example to all whom we encounter, living as daughters and sons of God who follow in the path of Jesus, our Lord and our brother. Amen.

*Consider The Upper Room Daily Devotional
as a resource for Midday Prayer.*

Household Prayer: Evening

As evening comes and we end the labors of this day, we thank you, Lord Jesus, that you have been our companion. If we have disregarded your fellowship, forgive us. Where we have strayed from your path, correct us. Let us rest this evening as children of God, sheltered in the love of those who belong to your holy family of grace. Amen.