

# 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

**February 2, 2025**  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

**TO BE  
OR  
NOT  
TO BE**

**Rev. Johan Dodge**



**COMMUNITY  
CHURCH LEISURE  
WORLD**

## **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 — Marylee Thomsen

God of Life and Love, we are grateful for all the gifts of this life that we are privileged to enjoy. May we see openly that you are present with us in the good times and that you walk with us amidst our times of struggle and pain. May our vision of your way of life increase in us the stuff that life is made for — faith, hope and love, but especially love — that we may be your body, the body of Christ working to bring paradise to earth. Amen.

## HYMN: "This Little Light of Mine"

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine,  
Ev - 'ry - where I go, Je - sus gave it to me,

5

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine;  
 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine;

9

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine;  
 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine;

13

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

*[please be seated]*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

God of all goodness, we live in times of stress and controversy, injustice and cruelty. We are tempted to cry to you for rescue even as you call to us to take up the work of the kin-dom.

We pray for leaders and nations around the world, that they may seek justice and act in mercy.

We pray for your body even as we are divided — that we might yet be knit together to be the love you seek for the world.

We pray for victims of violence both at home and abroad; may we find ways for our prayers to bring healing and your mercy.

We pray for those trapped by natural disaster; embrace them with your calm and send them relief.

We pray for those who are ill or suffering, that they may feel the comfort of your love.

We pray for your creation, that the health of the earth may be restored.

We pray those who have been born this week and those who have finished their course in faith; may their lives be governed by loving choices.

God of wisdom, may your Holy Spirit who abides with us, enable us to be humble and kind in all things that we may be like the source of all love in the world. **Amen.**

**ANTHEM:** “Here I Am, Lord” – The Music Team

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

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** — Marylee Thomsen

Spirit of life, God of love, open our hearts and enter in, that hearing your word of love, we may become your love for others. **Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE** — Marylee Thomsen

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

<sup>13:1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**MESSAGE:** “To Be or Not To Be” — Rev. Johan Dodge

**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION** — Rev. Johan Dodge

In the Gospel lesson for this Sunday, Jesus illustrates the love of God and enrages those who hear his teaching. The teachings of Jesus continue to enrage people, especially those who claim most loudly that they are Christians. How do the words of Paul guide us to be the Love of God in a world so filled with hate?

**REFLECTION:** “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” — John Flucker, *pianist*

**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 from your way of love, and our love for you and your creation failed, your love for us remained steadfast.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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. 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.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By his teachings and practice of your way of love, he knit together this new body we call the church.

He prayed that we might be one, as he is one with you, and he asked that we might be known by the love we have for one another.

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; we are one body as we share in the bread together. 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 the cup of the new covenant, an ongoing sign of God's love for you and all of God's very good creation. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your teachings and acts of love in Jesus Christ, we recommit ourselves to your way of love and pledge to live by the leading of your Holy Spirit, 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 the symbols of your love and desire for us to be your body knit together to build the new creation, your paradise here with us.

By your Spirit help the body of Christ be one. Help the left hand and the right hand work as one in ministry to all the world. Help the eyes and the ears sense your present and coming kin-dom. Bring the blessing of the diversity of the body to bear fruit 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 — Marylee Thomsen**

Siblings, let us love not only in our words but also in our actions. May our giving reflect your call for love and mercy and through these gifts may we build paradise around us. **Amen.**

*[Ushers, please come forward]*

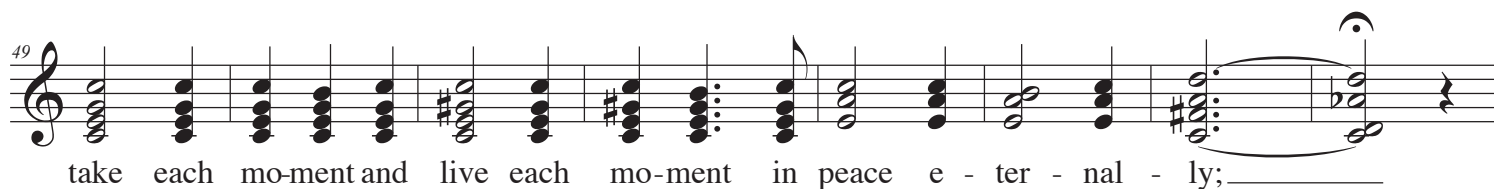
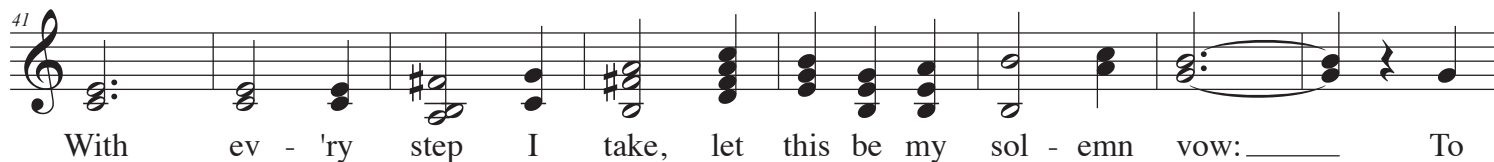
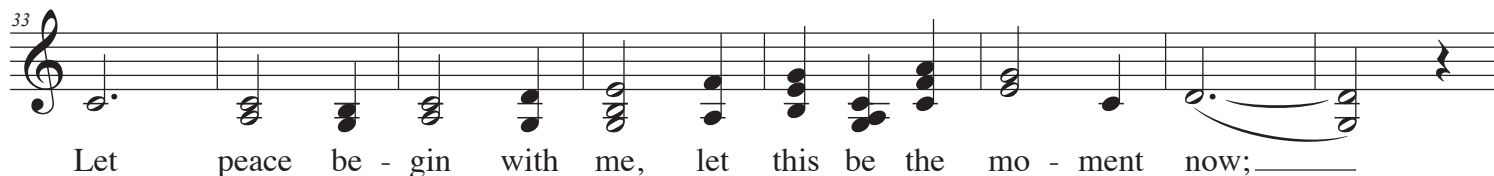
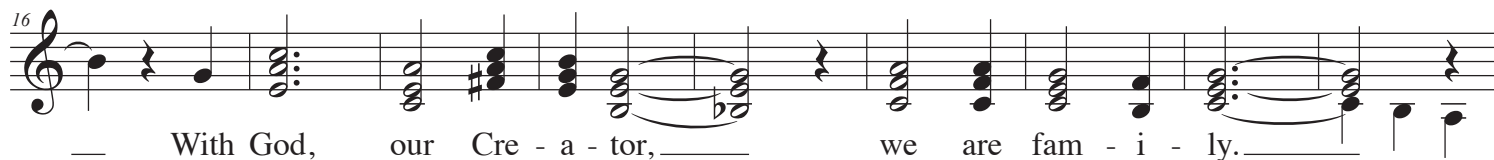
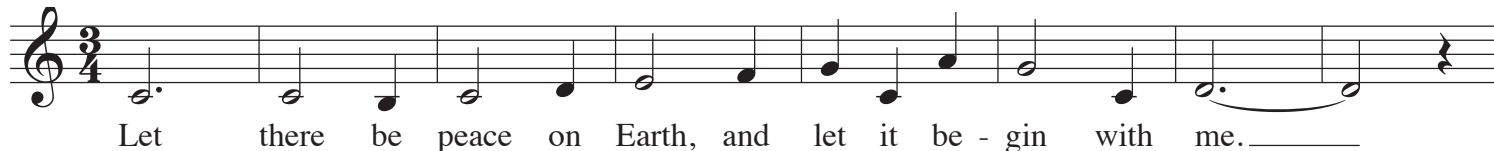
#### **OFFERTORY: “Climb Every Mountain” — Jennifer Scoullar, *soprano***

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Marylee Thomsen

Loving God, bless these gifts that we have been given and have returned to us as an expression of our commitment to participate in bringing your love to the world around us. May our neighbors see your love and your desire for a more perfect world that they too may participate in. Amen.

*[please stand as you are able]*

### HYMN: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"



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

## BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

Empowered by God's love for you, go out and love your neighbors, especially those neighbors who seem most different from you that you and they may see through the illusion to the paradise around us. Go into the world where things are being pulled down and overthrown, where things are being built and planted. Go this day, open to the leading of the Holy Spirit who may yet surprise you with what God is asking you to do! Go this day, with the love of God made visible in you. And may the love of God help you bear all things. May the love of Christ enable you to see all the possibilities. And may the Holy Spirit inspire you to act not in all things, but to act in those things that are yours to do. **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: Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Dir.*  
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*  
Kara Brouelette, *Mezzo-Soprano*

Jennifer Scoullar, *Soprano*  
John Fluker, *Pianist*  
Jim Orr, *Bass*

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

**"This Little Light of Mine"**  
African American Spiritual, Harmony by  
Horace Clarence Boyer; Words based on  
Matthew 5:14-16

**"Here I Am, Lord"**  
Music & Words by Dan Schutte, Arranged by  
Craig Courtney, Words based on Isaiah 6  
Copyright © 1981, Daniel L. Schutte and  
New Dawn Music.

**"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"**  
Music & Words by Doris Akers. Piano  
Arrangement/Improvisation by John Fluker.

**"Climb Every Mountain"**  
From the musical play, *The Sound of Music*,  
Music by Richard Rodgers, Words by Oscar  
Hammerstein, II.

**"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. 187225

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Mary Maness** – Mary is moving to Victorville to be closer to her son. Prayers for an easy move, and that she feel at comfortable in her new home.

**Marv Jahn** – Marvin Louis Jahn passed away on Monday, January 20, 2025, at the age of 92. Prayers of comfort for Ella and Marv's family, and peaceful rest for Marv.  
Marv's funeral will take place on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 11 AM, graveside at:  
*Loma Vista Memorial Park, 701 East Bastanchury Road, Fullerton, California 92835*

**Doris Smith** – Doris asks prayers for dear friend, Brian Fry, who passed away on January 27<sup>th</sup>, at the age of 66. Prayers of comfort and strength his family, and peaceful rest for Brian.

**Susie Perslow** – Susie expressed appreciation for the care and concern that has been shown to her as she has continued healing and recovering from her fall.

## NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**FLOWERS and FELLOWSHIP:** Today's flowers and fellowship refreshments are provided by Lois & Jim Dimos. 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.

**MUSIC OF RICHARD RODGERS: TODAY at 4 PM!** LWCC resident pianist, **John Fluker**, directs & performs music by **Rodgers & Hammerstein** and **Rodgers & Hart**, featuring the talents of LWCC resident soprano, **Jennifer Scoullar**, & bass vocalist **Sean Gabel**. Broadway & Hollywood hits, including "Some Enchanted Evening," "Blue Moon," "Isn't It Romantic?" "My Favorite Things," and more this afternoon, **Sun, Feb 2, at 4 PM**. \$15 seniors/students, \$20 general, and we have plenty of **FREE** sponsored tickets, by request. Come one & all, and bring friends!

**VALENTINE LUNCHEON:** The Theater Club and LWCC host a Valentine's Day Cancer Party & Luncheon, Fri, Feb 14, at 12 noon at Community Church. A light lunch, Valentine-themed games, and Theater Club Singers, directed by Charla Gae. Anyone who currently has cancer, cancer survivors, caregivers, & those who wish to honor a loved one who passed or is fighting the fight. The party is free, but please make a reservation with Taylor White at 562-666-7570. Leave your name & phone number to confirm, or speak to Taylor in person by February 7<sup>th</sup>.

**FLUTE & PIANO CONCERT:** LWCC presents **Pija Hočevár** on flute and **Sonia Lee** on piano, performing the music of Debussy, Liszt, Dvořák, and more on **Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 4 PM**. Tickets are \$15 seniors/students, \$20 general, and free tickets are available, by request, as usual.

**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, February 6<sup>th</sup>, join Pastor Johan for Coffee with the Pastor, a weekly time of fellowship & check-in over coffee, & perhaps a little conversation around the book *Cultivating Christlikeness: Loving as Jesus Loved*.

# The Music of **RICHARD RODGERS**

A Celebration of Two Musical Dream Teams

**Rodgers & Hammerstein** and **Rodgers & Hart**



*Pianist/vocalist John Fluker, soprano vocalist Jennifer Scoullar, and bass vocalist Sean Gabel.*

## **Sunday, February 2, 2025 • 4:00 PM**

Savor lilting music and jaunty lyrics composed by musical icons of Broadway and Hollywood, including “Some Enchanted Evening,” “Blue Moon,” “Isn’t It Romantic?” “My Favorite Things,” and many more, accompanied by their fascinating life stories beautifully written by Grace Zangwill. LEISURE WORLD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 14000 Church Pl, Seal Beach, CA 90740. Tickets at the door or by calling 562-431-2503.

**\$15** for Seniors/Students

**\$20** General

**All-Are-Welcome Tickets: *FREE***

*If you wish to attend, but are unable to pay for a ticket, just ask for an “All-Are-Welcome Ticket,” and it’s yours for free. Those with means are invited to subsidize these tickets with your contribution.*

# Sunday February 16th @ 4:00pm

## *Pija Hočevar, flute & Sonia Lee, piano*



*Claude Debussy: Rêverie, Arabesque & Bruyères for Flute and Piano*

*Saverio Mercadante: Aria con Variazioni sul tema di "La ci darem la mano" for solo flute*

*Carl Reinecke: Ballade for Flute and Piano*

*Franz Liszt: Consolations nos. 1 & 2 for solo Piano*

*Antonín Dvořák: American Suite arr. Frank Michael for Flute and Piano*

**Leisure World Community Church**  
**14000 Church Place**  
**Seal Beach, CA 90740**

**Tickets at the Door: General \$20, Seniors/Students \$15**

**All-Are-Welcome Ticket Policy**

**For a free sponsored ticket or to sponsor a free ticket**

**Call the church office (562) 431-2503**

**Monday - Thursday, 9:30am -12:30pm.**

February 2, 2025



# GROW PRAY STUDY

Notes from the Service

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My Prayers this week:

# Prayer Journal

Use these prayers in your time with God each day.

## Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, you have blessed me with the gift of another day; may I live it in gratitude. Help me to be loving to others, to the Earth with all of its life, and to myself; in the name of the teacher of love. Amen.

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

## Household Prayer: Evening

Holy One, this day is drawing to an end. Be with me as I pause and ponder all the love I offered and received today. Help me to see you in each moment of love, and to let go of each moment I witnessed hate. Where I fell short of being patient and kind, may your Spirit help me to feel your patience and kindness toward me, and may I rest in the love you offer me as I give this day back to you. Amen.