

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

March 9, 2025

1st Sunday of Lent

The Lies of Empire



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: Doxology for Lent

Praise God through - out these for - ty days. Praise

Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spi - rit who im -

parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Marylee Thomsen

Ever-Loving, Ever-Present God, thank you for the signs of your abiding love, shown to us even in the wilderness that we often make for ourselves. Give us courage to stand firm in your Word in every time of trial and testing, that we may enter the land of your freedom and establish the way of love you so generously teach; in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

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

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in
2. In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their
3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -

4

Him no south or north, but one com - mu - ni -
high com - mu - nion find; His ser - vice is the
e'er your race may be. All child - ren of the

7

ty of love through - out the whole wide Earth.
gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

Loving God, we pray for all who live in places of threat and danger. We turn to you, for in Jesus, you taught us courage in the face of persecution. Teach us to prepare a table where enemies may feast instead of fight.

We pray for those who do not have enough — enough to eat, enough to wear, or enough justice for them to hold space. In your Holy Spirit, you fill the empty with good things, and lift up the lowly. Help us share the abundance we enjoy and to work for the freedom and dignity of all your children.

We pray for all who are chronically houseless, wandering our streets and sleeping unprotected; and for those who are houseless for a season because of natural disaster or economic trouble.

ANTHEM: “On Eagle’s Wings” — Music Team

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Marylee Thomsen

Bring your word near to us, O God. May it rest not only in my ears but make its way into my heart and out through my hands and voice. By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to respond to those in need with our whole lives until all creation recognizes that we dwell in you; through Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Marylee Thomsen

Luke 4:1-13

^{4:1}Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" ⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' ¹¹and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

MESSAGE: "The Lies of Empire" — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

In Luke, 4:1-13, the devil tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread, to take control of the kingdoms of the world, and to perform a spectacular stunt that would "wow the crowd." Jesus refused to take control in these ways. Instead, Jesus chose another way to feed hungry people, to demonstrate what the kingdom of God can be, and then he chose to enter Jerusalem humbly. The ego compels us to look for the flashy ways and Jesus shows us that the way isn't flashy, but it does come at the expense of our ego. Where does your ego get in the way of following Jesus? Where do you see the egos of others getting in the way of building the kin-dom of God around us?

REFLECTION: "Be Still, My Soul" — John Flucker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Marylee Thomsen

Israel came out of the wilderness and into a land flowing with milk and honey. There they were finally able to offer to God baskets full, in joyful celebration. We, too, bring the first fruits of all that God has so generously given us, with joy and thanksgiving. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Be Not Afraid” — Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Marylee Thomsen

Loving and Generous God, we are amazed by the good gifts you bestow in abundance. Thank you for food that sustains us on our journey. Thank you for the company of saints to whom we are joined. Thank you for giving us work to do on earth. We offer back to you a portion of all that we have received, setting down our baskets in celebration of your greatest gift — Jesus, in whose 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. _____

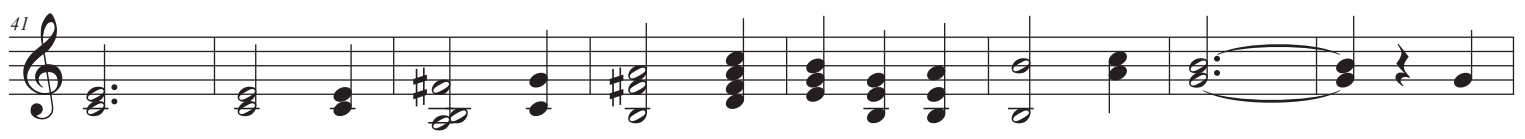
Let us walk with each oth - er _____ in per - fect har - mo - ny. _____

33



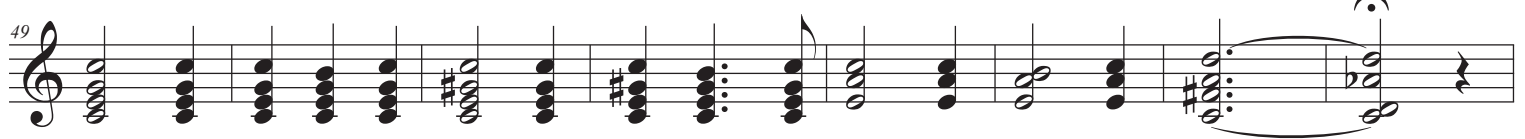
Let peace be - gin with me, let this be the mo - ment now;_____

41



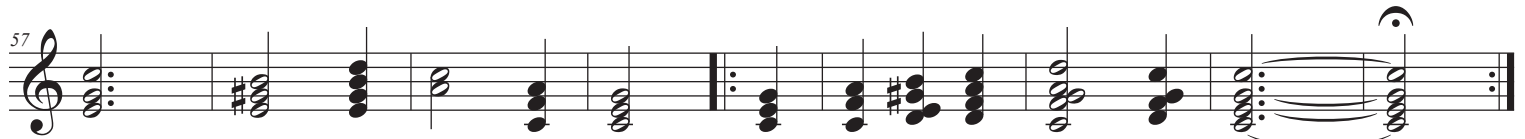
With ev - 'ry step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:_____ To

49



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

57



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

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

May the God of the Exodus lead us into freedom.

May the Holy Spirit draw us into the love of God for all creation.

May Jesus, show us how we may bring about the way of true justice
and 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*
Kara Brouelette, *Mezzo-Soprano*

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

Doxology (*Old Hundredth LM*)
Music by Louis Bourgeois, 1551
Original Words by Thomas Ken, 1674
Lenten Words by G. W. Dub Shepherd, 2006

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

"On Eagle's Wings"
Arranged by Lloyd Larson
Words and Music by Michael Joncas,
based on Psalm 91

"Be Still, My Soul"
Tune: *FINLANDIA* by Jean Sibelius
Piano Arrangement by John Fluker

"Be Not Afraid"
Music By Bob Dufford, SJ;
Arr. by Theophane Hytrek, OSF;
Words based on Isaiah 43:2-3 & Luke 6:20

"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 Fred Reker & Jeanette Williams – Fred & Jeanette request prayers for safety and smooth transitioning as they travel during the month of March while their apartment undergoes painting, plastering, general improvements.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and FELLOWSHIP: Today's flowers are provided by Steve Martinez. Fellowship refreshments are provided today by Sandy Walker. 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.

VIOLIN & PIANO CONCERT: **Next Sunday**, March 16, 2025 at 3:30 PM, we present violinist **Ken Aiso** pianist **Valeria Morgovskaya** in duets by Johann Sebastian Bach and Johannes Brahms, as well as music by composers from the Republic of Georgia. 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: Thursday, March 13th, join Pastor Johan for Coffee with the Pastor, a weekly time of fellowship & check-in over coffee, & maybe some conversation around the book *Cultivating Christlikeness: Loving as Jesus Loved*.

RE:Thinking LENT: Grab a copy of our Lenten Calendar **"44 Days of Kindness"** in the narthex. Take time this **Lent** to help someone in need, share a **kind** word, remind friends and family how much you **love** them, **welcome** a stranger, pay a **visit** someone who may be lonely, share a **meal** with someone ... *may we each find ways to make kindness and love happen in the world around us, every day.*

DOLLAR CLEARANCE SALE: On Saturday, March 29, 2025, from 9 AM to 1 PM, **everything** must go for only \$1! Swing on by Community Church for the deal of the century! ALL items on **CLEARANCE** for just **\$1**. **You see it, you want it, you drop a buck, it's yours!** Note: LWCC is NOT accepting donations for this sale. Please **DON'T** bring items to the church.

LEISURE WORLD COMMUNITY CHURCH

14000 Church Pl, Seal Beach, CA 90740

Sunday, March 16, 2025, 3:30 PM

VIOLIN PIANO DUETS



Ken Aiso
violin



Valeria Morgovskaya
piano

performing works by

Johann Sebastian Bach

Johannes Brahms

and composers from

The Republic of Georgia

GENERAL: \$20 | SENIORS & STUDENTS: \$15

Tickets available at the door, and in the Church Office

Call 562-431-2503 Monday – Thursday, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

ALL-Are-Welcome Ticket Policy: *If the ticket price is a challenge,
just call the church office at 562-431-2503 for a FREE sponsored ticket.*

Likewise, if you wish to sponsor a ticket for someone else, please call the church office.

March 9, 2025



GROW
PRAY
STUDY

Notes from the Service

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

My Prayers this week:

Prayer Journal

Use these prayers in your time with God each day.

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, all night I slept in your presence, sheltered by you. As I enter into the gift of this day, I know you are with me. May I see signs and wonders of your presence in the world today, for you alone are God. I ask that this day afford me opportunities to celebrate and share with others the abundance of your love. Help me to be open to all people you bring my way, for you yourself make no distinctions, but are God of all. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

God, my dwelling place, as the shadows fall, I rest in you. Thank you for the faith that held me fast this day. Thank you, too, for every person who offered me kindness, and for those to whom I could also show kindness. I pray this night for all who long to see a sign of your love in the darkness that surrounds them. Be near to them and show them your salvation. And in the morning when I rise, give me your work to do for another day; in Jesus name. Amen.