

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

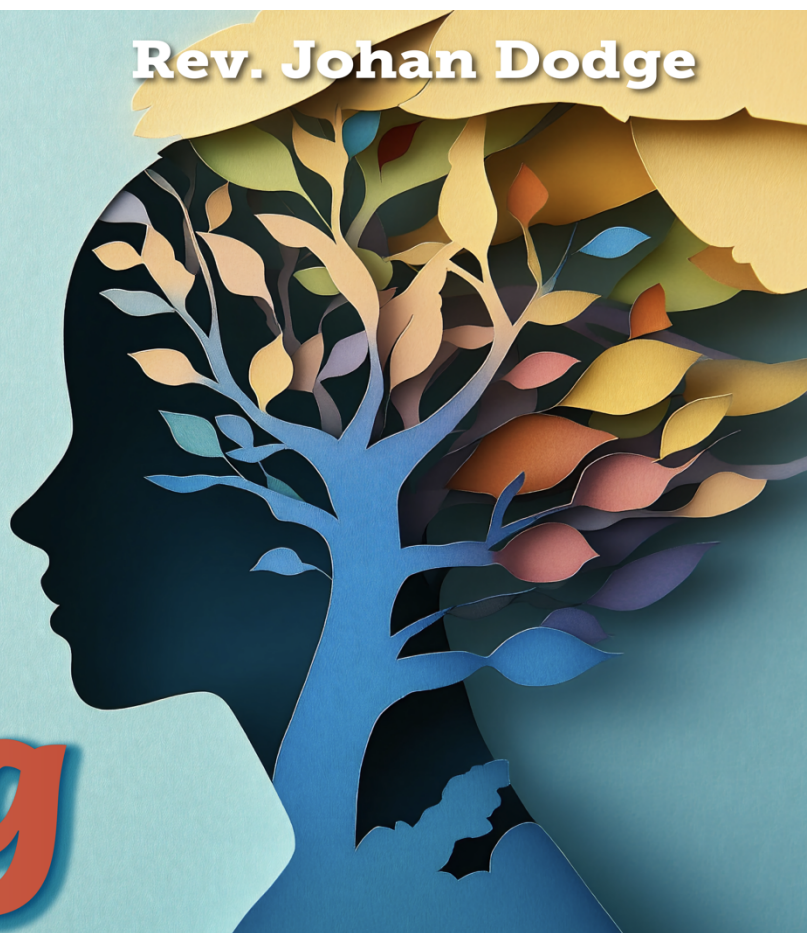
March 23, 2025

3rd Sunday of Lent



Rev. Johan Dodge

Soul Tending



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

Musical score for 'CALL TO WORSHIP: Doxology for Lent'. The score is written for voice and piano in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of staves. The first system contains measures 1-4, the second system measures 5-8, and the third system measures 9-12. The lyrics are: '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.' The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands, with some measures containing triplets or beamed eighth notes.

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 — Phyllis Spencer

Holy God, we are gathered together in your love. We lift up our hands and call on your name. We are your people, thirsty for the living water you provide. When we consider how you provide for us, giving us the spring that gushes up to new life, we cling to you, singing praises with joyful lips; through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

HYMN: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Musical score for the hymn 'Lift Every Voice and Sing'. The score is written for voice and piano in 6/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of staves. The first system contains measures 1-8, and the second system contains measures 9-16. The lyrics are: 'Lift ev'-ry voice and sing, 'til Earth and Heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of Ston-y the road we trod, bit - ter the chast'-ning rod, Felt in the days when hope un - God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

Lift ev'-ry voice and sing, 'til Earth and Heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of
Ston-y the road we trod, bit - ter the chast'-ning rod, Felt in the days when hope un -
God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far

8

lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise, high as the list - 'ning skies, Let it re -
 born had died; Yet with a stead - y beat, havenot our wea - ry feet, Come to the
 on the way; Thou who hast by thy might, led us in - to the light, Keep us for -

14

sound loud as the roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
 place for which our fa - thers sighed? We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
 ev - er in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we

20

taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the pre - sent has brought us; Fac - ing the
 wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered; Out from the
 met thee. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee. Sha - dowed be -

26

ris - ing sun; of our new day be - gun, Let us march on 'til vic - to - ry is won.
 gloom - y past, 'til now we stand at last, Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

God of generous provision, we are grateful for the many ways you care for us and provide for the needs of your people. In ward water, bread and fruit of the vine, you nourish and sustain us. When we listen to you, we encounter delight, and when we turn to you we encounter life lived most fully.

Sometimes though, we find ourselves in a dry and weary land ... where we have misused and depleted creation, drought and famine leave people and animals facing hunger and starvation. Where we have polluted streams, rivers and oceans, fish and other water creatures suffer and die. People without access to clean water become sick. O God, help us to care for your creation in ways that make it possible for all to have enough food and water — life, verdant and abundant.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a dry and weary land ... in places torn apart by war, where the earth itself has been ravaged; where hospitals and homes and corner stores have been reduced to rubble; where human lives have been destroyed and deformed; where peace lies in the ruins and hope has been buried. O God, raise peace among us again. Build hope up from the ground. Restore in us and in the world's leaders the will and determination to make an end to war and a new beginning for justice.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a dry and weary land ... Where we are lost, unable to find our way to a place that is home for us; when we are sad and weighed down with regret or grief; when we are tired or sick in body, mind, or spirit. O God, provide water in the desert and manna in the wilderness — enough to sustain us for one more day, even enough to revive us for the long haul.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the rich feast of your presence ... we celebrate the new beginnings in our lives: a new job, a new relationship, a new life, a new day of sobriety, a second chance. O God, we give thanks to you for new blessings in our lives.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the rich feast of your presence ... We give thanks for the gift of healing after injury or illness: for laughter that bubbles up to replace our tears: for hope that spills its soothing light over the darkness of our despair. O God, we thank you for the gift of wholeness and resurrection promised to us in Jesus Christ.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the rich feast of your presence ... we enjoy the relief of forgiveness given and received: we enjoy the breach in walls of division: our own hearts are enlarged, and our vision is broadened by new understanding: we welcome a prodigal home or are ourselves welcomed home again. O God, we thank you that you are reconciling all things in heaven and earth.

Be patient with us, we pray, in the varied landscapes of our lives. Make us patient with one another and even with ourselves. Do your good work within us, among us, and beyond us, until our lives and all of creation come fully into your preferred vision. You who so generously provide, deserve our praise, our grateful praise. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Just A Closer Walk with Thee"

I am weak, but thou art strong; (art strong,) Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; ____
 Through this world of toil and snares, ____ If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? ____
 When my fee - ble life is o'er, ____ Time for me will be no more; ____

I'll be sat - is - fied as long ____ (just as long) as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 Who with me my bur - den shares? ____ None but thee, dear ____ Lord, none but thee.
 Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er ____ to thy kin - dom ____ shore, to thy shore.

Just a clos - er walk with thee, (with thee,) Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, ____

Dai - ly walk - ing close to thee, ____ (to thee,) Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Phyllis Spencer

We seek you in your word, O God, as though we are searching for water in a dry and weary land. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may this word be to us a rich feast, satisfying the soul. Then with our mouths, we will praise you; and with our lives we will bless you, our Host and our Hope. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Phyllis Spencer

Luke 13:1-9

^{13:1}At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

MESSAGE: “Soul Tending” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Our passage this week tells the story of a fruitless tree that the owner is ready to cut down. The gardener, however, asks for more time. The gardener wants to tend and cultivate the soil in the hope that fruit may yet grow. The gardener is open to a different future for this tree, in spite of its present condition. Think about your own life in relationship to this story. Think about the lives of your loved ones in relationship to this story: what needs special tending? What will cultivate the “soil” of daily life so that new growth, new possibilities, might begin to bear fruit? What can we learn from this gardener about allowing for a different outcome, a new possibility?

REFLECTION: “There’s Something About That Name” — John Fluker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Phyllis Spencer

Followers of Jesus, children of God, we often spend our money on that which is not true bread, and labor toward things that will never satisfy. In our offering, we give to things that are of God; bread for the hungry, good news for those who are oppressed, the ministries of the church that welcome strangers and siblings alike. We bring before God a portion of all that God has so freely given to us. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

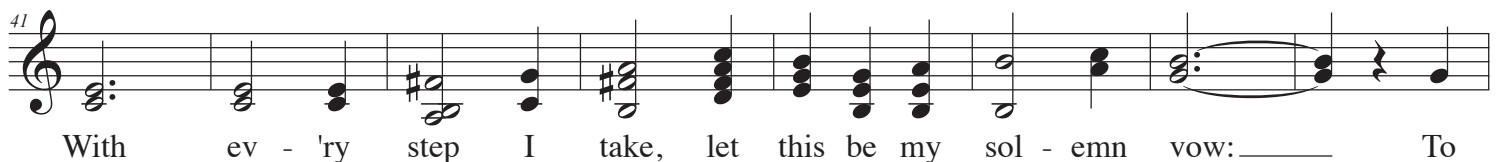
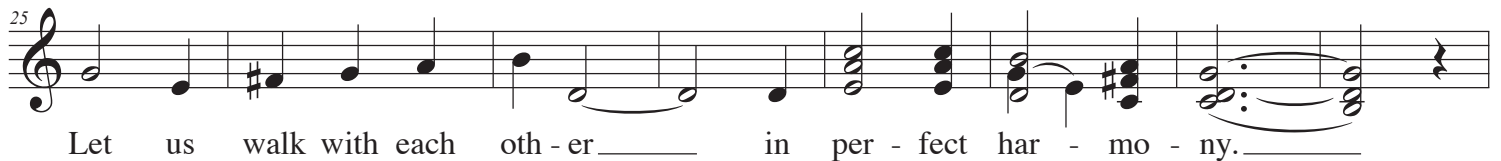
OFFERTORY: “Fill My Cup, Lord” — Kara Brouelette, *mezzo-soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Phyllis Spencer

God of wilderness and Promised Land, in days of want and in days of plenty you have been with us. By these gifts we now share, may others know of your providence and care. Send us, not only our offerings, but our very selves — to console and comfort, to lift up and reach out, to listen and sit beside your children everywhere at the one table you have set; through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”



49

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

57

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

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

On this third Sunday of Kindness, may the love of God ground us, the way of Jesus guide us, and the Holy Spirit flow through us, that we may bear fruit in our lives that contribute to the kin-dom. **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: Kara Brouelette, *Mezzo-Soprano*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*
Jennifer Scoullar, *Soprano*

John Fluker, *Pianist*
Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Dir.*
Jim Orr, *Bass, Technology*

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

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”
Music by John Rosamond Johnson
Words by James Weldon Johnson

“Just A Closer Walk with Thee”
Traditional African American Folk Song;
additional Music & Words by Kenneth Morris

“There’s Something About that Name”
Music by Bill Gaither; Words by Gloria Gaither,
Words by by Gloria & Bill Gaither
Piano Improvisation by John Fluker

“Fill My Cup, Lord”
Words and Music by Richard Blanchard
© 1964 Word Music, LLC

“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. N geli, 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 Westcott – Nancy threw her back out but was able to see her doctor this past Thursday. Prayers for pain relief and speedy recovery.

new Jenny Chang – Jenny's sons, Hanson and Ensen, informed us that Jenny has been admitted to the hospital for severe back pain. She was seen by a spine pain specialist and received an injection of pain medication. Prayers for pain relief and speedy recovery.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and FELLOWSHIP: Today's flowers are provided by Sue Long. 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.

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 27th, join Pastor Johan for Coffee with the Pastor, a weekly time of fellowship & check-in over coffee. If you have questions or wish to discuss today's message, or if the weight of the world is on your mind, please join us and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea with good company.

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.

This Week in RE:Thinking Lent

March 23:	Mini Easter! Be Kind today!	March 27:	Call a friend you haven't talked to
March 24:	Tell someone you're grateful for them	March 28:	Give a meal card to an unhoused person
March 25:	Avoid complaining – all day	March 29:	Let someone in front of you in line
March 26:	Send a letter to a friend	March 30:	Mini Easter! Be Kind today!

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."



March 23, 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, this new day carries the potential for growth and new life. Help me to attend to those things in me that need care and attention. Sow your love in me that I may grow in faithfulness and understanding. Shake me out of dull routines, so that I may take part in the good news you continue to share urgently and passionately. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

As I lie down this night in the shadow of your wings, God of my life, I know that you are with me even as you have helped me though this day. Whether I am weary from the day, whether the day has been a rich feast of blessings, I give thanks for your power and glory, which are present in every circumstance. As I give myself over to rest and sleep, I remember that your steadfast love is better than life apart. So, I pray surround me with your love tonight and always. In the peace of Christ I pray. Amen.