

# 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 30, 2025**  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent*

**What's  
In It  
For  
Thee?**

**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 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 — Lois Dimos

**Gracious God, seeker of the lost: draw your children back to your loving embrace, restore us to our inheritance as children, and reconcile our hearts to you, that we may become ambassadors of your reconciling love to the world. Through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.**

## HYMN: "This Is a Day of New Beginnings"

1. This is a day of new be - gin-nings, Time to re - mem - ber  
2. For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y Spir - it,  
3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the past and

7  
and move on, Time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,  
now as then, can make for us a world of dif - f'rence,  
leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,

13  
Lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
as faith and hope are born a - gain. 4. Christ is a - live, and  
Seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.

19  
goes be - fore us, to show and share what love can do. This is a

26  
day of new be - gin - nings; Our God is mak - ing all things new.

*[please be seated]*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

For the church throughout the world, that all who call upon the name of Jesus may embody the reconciling way of God's love.

For the nations of the world and our leaders, that all may dwell in peace and that justice may transform the places of oppression such that all people and creation itself may experience healing.

For the planet earth, God's gift to creation, that all may share wisely its resources and conserve its riches for generations to come.

For our enemies, that we may regard them with reconciling love made manifest in Jesus.

For those who are sick or in trouble, for the defenseless, the weak, and the poor, that they may be restored to wholeness of life and livelihood.

For the lost, for those who have abandoned God, friends, or family, and for those who have never known such love, that they may come to know the joy of love's embrace.

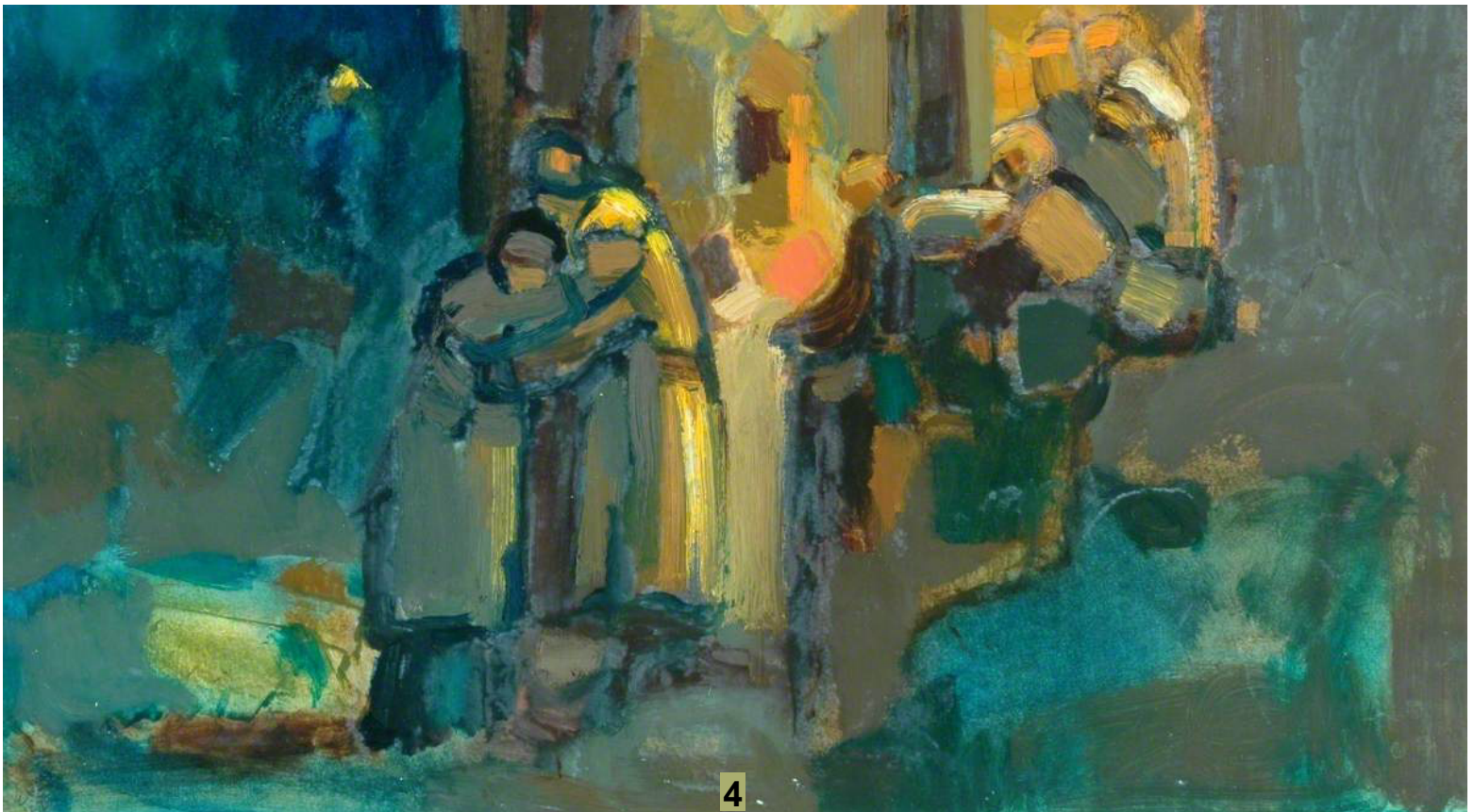
Loving God, hear the prayers of your people for the sake of our world, and our teacher, Jesus. **Amen.**

**ANTHEM:** "All Creatures of Our God Most High" – The Music Team

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

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** — Lois Dimos

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit open our minds and bodies to the re-creating power of your Word, that we may see the world through the teachings of Jesus and build the world of our kin-dom. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**



## SCRIPTURE — Lois Dimos

### **Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

<sup>15:1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

**MESSAGE:** “What’s In It For Thee?” — Rev. Johan Dodge

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

In J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth, the hobbits have an interesting custom. On a hobbit's birthday, he or she does not receive gifts from family and friends. Instead, the birthday celebrating hobbit presents gifts and perhaps throws a party — for family and friends. This practice reflects the teachings of Jesus and the divine economy of abundance. Where are you currently practicing God's abundant economy even while living in our human economy of scarcity? Where might the Holy Spirit be challenging you to be more abundant in your thinking and practice? What is one first step you can take toward that abundance?

**REFLECTION:** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Lois Dimos

As people of the New creation, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.  
**Amen.**

*[Ushers, please come forward]*

## OFFERTORY: "Shout to the Lord" — Music Team

Jennifer Rudy, *soprano*    Kara Brouelette, *alto*    Jim Orr, *bass*  
Dave Albulario, *tenor*    Hannah Yi, *pianist*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Lois Dimos

**O God, all that we have comes from you. Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives, for we return to you only what you have so graciously given. Use us for the sake of Jesus, 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 - 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.\_\_\_\_\_

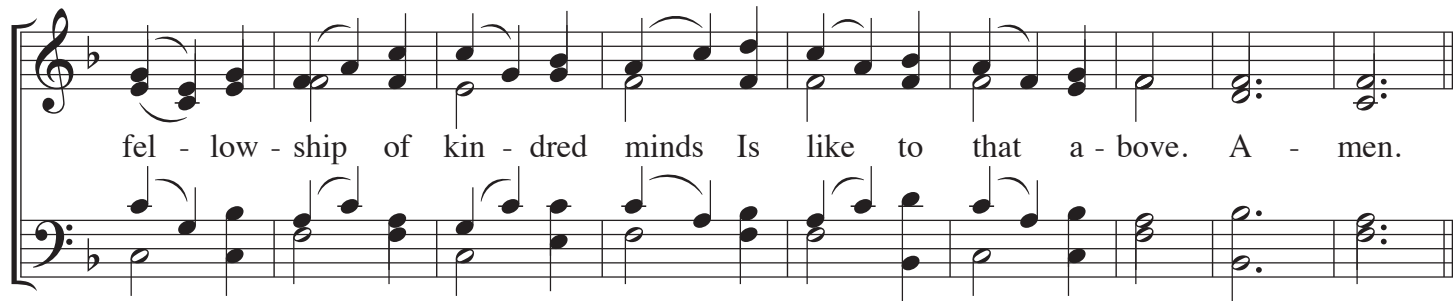
### BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

The God of reconciliation bless you, the love of Jesus guide you, and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you this day and forever more. **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 Rudy, *Soprano*  
Jim Orr, *Bass-Baritone*  
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

Kara Brouelette, *Mezzo-Soprano*  
Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Director*  
John Fluker, *Pianist*

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

**"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"**  
 Music by Carlton Raymond Young  
 Words by Brian Wren

**"All Creatures of Our God Most High"**  
 Traditional German *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*  
 Harmony by Ralph Vaughan Williams; Text by  
 Francis of Assisi, 1224; Trans. composite  
 Adapted & Arranged by David Albulario

**"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**  
 Music by Charles C. Converse (1868)  
 Piano Arrangement by Mark Hayes

**"Shout to the Lord"**  
 Words and Music by Darlene Zschech;  
 Choral SATB Setting by Jack Schrader

**"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**  
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 562-431-2503  
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## PRAYER REQUESTS

**update Nancy Westcott** – Nancy strained her sciatic nerve and is getting weekly treatment for the pain. She hopes to be back in action in a few days. Prayers for pain relief and speedy recovery.

**update Jenny Chang** – Jenny has responded well to pain medication and will receive another dose in a couple of weeks. She's recovering well at home and being cared for by her sons, Hanson and Enson. Prayers for pain relief and speedy recovery.

## 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.

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

**COFFEE WITH PASTOR:** Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, join Pastor Johan for "Coffee with 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.*

## This Week in RE:Thinking Lent

|                  |                                       |                 |                                                                  |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>March 30:</b> | Mini Easter!<br>Be Kind today!        | <b>April 3:</b> | Visit someone                                                    |
| <b>March 31:</b> | Thank someone in<br>service to others | <b>April 4:</b> | Tell someone you're<br>grateful for them                         |
| <b>April 1:</b>  | Give a stranger<br>a compliment       | <b>April 5:</b> | U.N. Day of Conscience –<br>kindness & compassion for <b>all</b> |
| <b>April 2:</b>  | Share a meal<br>with a friend         | <b>April 6:</b> | Mini Easter!<br>Be Kind today!                                   |

March 30, 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, in all that I do this day, use me as a sign of your reconciling love. Let me not view anyone from a human point of view, but let me see all whom I encounter with the eyes of Jesus, through whom I pray. Amen.

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

## Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, if like the prodigal son I have strayed from you this day, call me back to your loving embrace. If like the elder son, I have harbored resentment for the grace you give to others, reprove me. Help me claim in thought and deed the inheritance of the saints who share with Jesus compassion and forgiveness to all who lose their way. Amen.