

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

April 6, 2025

5th Sunday of Lent



Community



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

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 musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The second system starts with a measure rest of 5 measures in the treble staff, followed by the vocal line. The third system starts with a measure rest of 10 measures in the treble staff, followed by the vocal line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Virginia Olejnik

Creator God, you have formed us in your image and have called us your own, so whether we are weeping or laughing, dreaming or shouting for joy, we are always with you. For this life lived together in love, we give you thanks. Amen.

HYMN: "Shall We Gather at the River"

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod, —
2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease,

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of — God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py — gold - en — day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a — robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of — peace.

The hymn is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a piano accompaniment and a vocal line. The piano part consists of a treble and bass staff. The vocal line is written in the treble staff. The hymn is divided into four verses. The first verse is marked with a measure rest of 5 measures. The second verse is marked with a measure rest of 5 measures. The third verse is marked with a measure rest of 5 measures. The fourth verse is marked with a measure rest of 5 measures. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

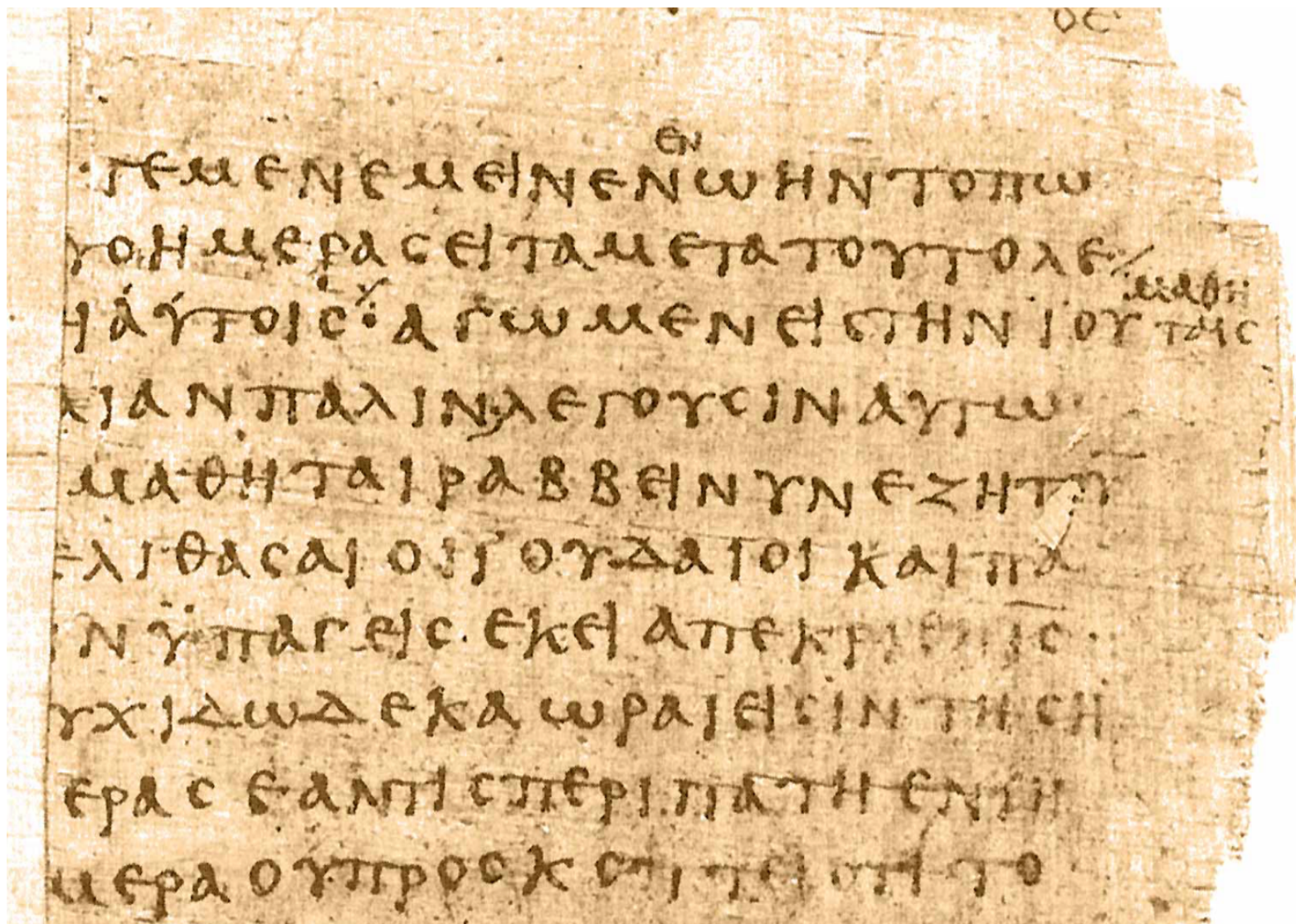
Refrain

9

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful — riv - er,

13

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of — God.



[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

God the source of all life and love. You cause life to spring forth from barren landscapes. You hear our cries and receive our tears; you restore us to joy and laughter. You have done great things for us, and are continually making all things new. We thank you, O God.

We thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus, whose life and teachings have guided us through this season of kindness and guide us in every season of life. In his suffering and sacrifice, Jesus knew full well the troubles and pains of this earthly life. In his resurrection is the hope of our own. Surrounded by your overflowing love, we are not alone.

With thanksgiving we celebrate your care and the gift of newness in our lives: for recovery from illness or injury; for calm after a time of unrest; for a sense of direction after uncertainty; for new life; for new opportunities.

We pray for people who live in difficult places. For those who are suffering and those at life's end; for people struggling with employment and financial worries; for those trapped in the grip of addiction; for people enduring emotional or spiritual turmoil. Because you are able to make a way in every wilderness, we thank you O God.

We pray for the needs of the world. May peace overwhelm places of war and justice cloud out oppression and cruelty. Protect soldiers and citizens alike from war's way and make all conflicts cease. Bless the leaders of communities, states, and nations, that they make speak truth and work with one another for the common good. Pour out healing upon the earth that has been depleted and injured by our careless consumption and intentional greed. Comfort those devastated by natural disasters; strengthen those supplying shelter, food, and aid. Amid the chaos of this world, your Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

We pray for the church, the body of Christ in the world, that we may be your love in the world and act with holy boldness!. Lead us by the presence of your Holy Spirit, to witness to your way of love, in our lives, in the church and in the world.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

ANTHEM: “Home: The Arms of God” – The Music Team

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Virginia Olejnik

Holy Spirit, open the Scripture this day, that it may be poured out over us until its fragrance fills our hearts and lives. Then, anointed in your Word, send us out to share the good news we have received. We ask this in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Virginia Olejnik

John 12:1-11

^{12:1}Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them* with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.' ⁹When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

MESSAGE: “Community” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Community may be a bad word at the moment, but it is foundational to who we are as the body of Christ. Community is about inclusion, but it does not mean uniformity. Jesus was present at the dinner with Mary and Lazarus but so was Judas. Indeed, Judas was never told to leave, he was welcomed even as he was turning away from Jesus to follow his own greed. Community is challenging, indeed — inclusiveness is challenging. Where do you see community/inclusion being challenged? Where are you challenged by community? How might your life in Christ help you to see with new eyes the inclusive community God has established and seeks to establish again?

REFLECTION: “Total Praise” — 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:

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: 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.

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.

Repeat after Cantor:



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 — Virginia Olejnik

As it is written in the book of Deuteronomy: “Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, ‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor ...’” Through the gifts we bring today, we can generously give as Mary did and continue to support the community. As we open wide our hands, we attend to Christ himself, who is present among all including the least and the lost. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Lift Every Voice and Sing” — Music Team:

Jennifer Rudy, *soprano* Kara Brouelette, *alto* Jim Orr, *bass*
Dave Albulario, *tenor* John Fluker, *pianist*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Virginia Olejnik

Abundant God: you cause water to flow in desert places. You provide flowing wine at the wedding feast, and food to feed thousands gathered on the hillside. Your generosity astounds and teaches us. We come before you in gratitude and awe, asking you to receive what we have brought in response. May these gifts be a pleasing and fragrant offering, for the sake of the world you came to save. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”



9
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be. _____

16
_____ With God, our Cre - a - tor, _____ we are fam - i - ly. _____

25
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

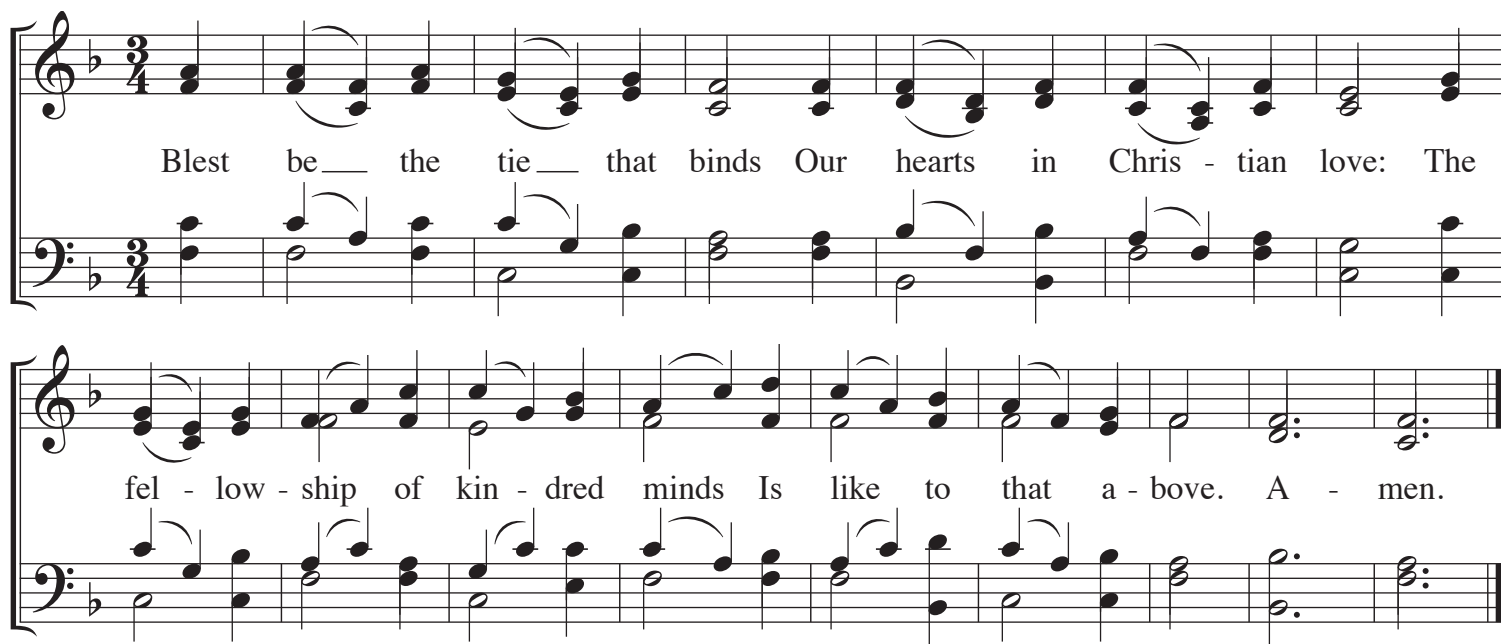
49
take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly; _____

57
Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me. _____

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

As the season of Kindness turns toward Palm Sunday and the events of Holy Week, go forth remembering both Mary's faithfulness and Judas's betrayal as you consider your own life of discipleship and may God guide you through the desert places, Christ lead you into following him more fully and the Holy Spirit fill you with love overflowing; that as you share in Christ's suffering you will also share in his resurrection. **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.*
Kara Brouelette, *Mezzo-Soprano*
John Fluker, *Pianist*

Jennifer Rudy, *Soprano*
Jim Orr, *Bass*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

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

"Shall We Gather at the River?"
Music and Words by Robert Lowry
Words based on Rev. 22:1-5

"Home: The Arms of God"
Words and Music by Heather Sorenson
Copyright © 2013; Arrangement Copyright
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"Total Praise"
Music by Richard Smallwood
Piano arrangement by John Fluker

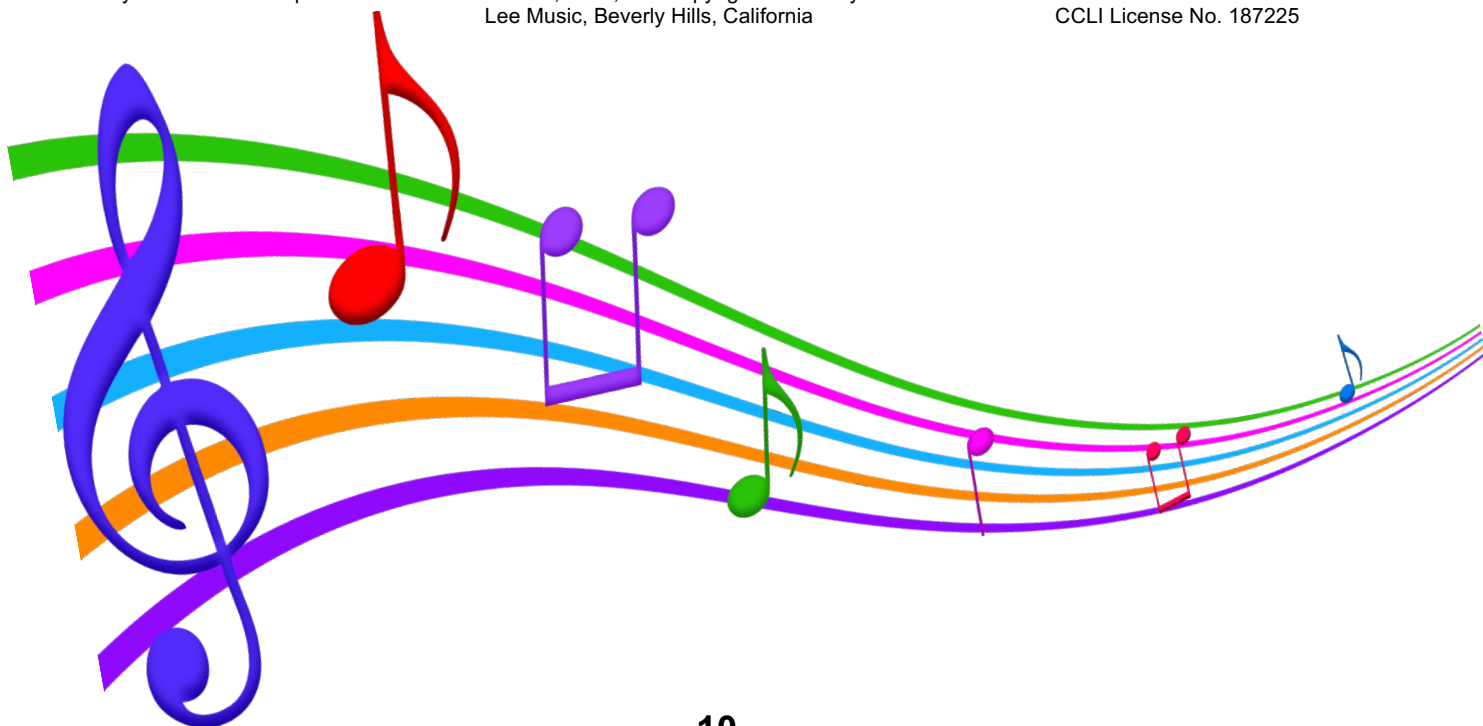
"Lift Every Voice and Sing"
Music by J. Rosamond Johnson, Words by
James Weldon Johnson; Arranged by Craig
Courtney, Quoting "Nobody Knows the Trouble
I've Seen" African-American Spiritual

"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

If you are in need of prayer for any specific concerns or challenges, please contact the Church Office at 562-431-2503. We'll include your prayer request in this space.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and FELLOWSHIP: Today's Flowers are provided by Mo Ashley. Fellowship cupcakes are provided in true hobbit fashion by Pastor Johan in belated celebration of his birthday (March 28th). 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 PASTOR: Thursday, April 10th, 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. Come and share your thoughts and a cup o' joe!

PEACE, LOVE, MUSIC: CALLING ALL HIPPIES! It's time to break out the tie-dye, love beads, & granny glasses! Join us for a groovy afternoon of 60s music featuring *Legends of Rock* and *Songbirdz*. Help us spread peace & love throughout Leisure World on Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 3:30 PM. **FREE FLOWER POWER STICKERS to the FIRST 100 GUESTS!** Hippie Threads & Dancin' Shoes are optional.

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

April 6:	Mini Easter! Be Kind today!	April 10:	Let someone in front of you in line
April 7:	Avoid complaining — all day	April 11:	Thank someone in service to others
April 8:	Affirm someone in Front of others	April 12:	Give a stranger a compliment
April 9:	Send a letter to a friend	April 13:	Palm Sunday

LEISURE WORLD COMMUNITY CHURCH

presents



**SUNDAY
APRIL 27, 2025
at 3:30 PM**

Leisure World Community Church

14000 Church Pl, Seal Beach, CA 90740 – 562-431-2503 for information

CALLING ALL HIPPIES!

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April 6, 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

Merciful God, as I begin this day, place in me a spirit of generosity so that I may freely share love, joy, and encouragement with those I encounter. Keep me from quick judgements so that I leave room for your grace in my life and in the lives of others. Make me your faithful disciple in my words and in my actions, as well as in the thoughts of my heart; in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

All through the day, Lord Jesus, you have been present. As I settle into the routines of home and evening, help me to put aside the cares of the day and the worries of tomorrow in order to fully enjoy the peace of abiding with you now. I pray that your peace will also be with those I know who have special needs of your care tonight, and pray for those who lie down this night without the safety of home or bed, without enough food or resources. Bring your light into the surrounding darkness so that all of us may sleep securely in your love. Amen.