

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 20, 2025 – EASTER SUNDAY



*Please gather in the narthex, as you are able.
Today's Worship begins with flowering the Easter Cross.
We will enter the church together.*

GREETING — Rev. Johan Dodge

Early on the first day of the week, the disciples went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried only to find that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. Friends, we gather here as Christ's Disciples, on the first day of the week, to celebrate the good news of the Gospel: Let us continue to tell the tale!

INTRODUCTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ our Lord.

My siblings in Christ:

On this most holy morning

in which Jesus Christ passed over from death to life,
we gather as the Church to watch and pray.

This is the Passover of Christ,

in which we share in Christ's victory over death.

OPENING PRAYER:

God of life,

through Jesus Christ

you have bestowed upon the world the light of life.

Sanctify us, and grant that our hearts and minds may also be kindled

with holy desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising,

that we may attain to the feast of everlasting light;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALL JOIN EASTER CROSS PROCESSION INTO THE CHURCH:

"Lift High the Cross" — Chris Wade, *organist*

[please remain standing 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

Alleluia! We praise you, O God, for the power of your giving love revealed in the resurrection of Jesus. As you have drawn Jesus from death, draw us also from the darkness into your everlasting love that we may continue in your love forever through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit who connects us all even now. Amen.

HYMN: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, done, — Al - le - lu - ia!
Love's re - deem - ing work is King,
Lives a - gain our glo - rious led,
Soar we now where Christ has

All cre - a - tion join to say
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, — Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Fol - low - ing our ex - al - ted head,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Once he died our souls to save,
Made like him, like him we rise,

Sing ye Heav'n and Earth re - ply, —
Christ has o - pened Pa - ra - dise. Al - le - lu - ia! lu - ia!
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? grave?
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

1, 2, 3. Final

3

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

Loving God, before we call, you answer. Before we speak, you know our words. Let there be peace in Israel and the surrounding territories and may there be peace among all nations.

Let sounds of weeping and cries of distress turn to shouts of joy and laughter.

Let the old dance like children; let infants grow and thrive.

Let every person find home and enjoy the fruit of your blessings.

Let the wolf and the lamb live in peace; let no one hurt or destroy another.

Guide us, O God, to the holy mountain you have prepared, the new heaven and new earth you call us to create with you so that we may be glad and rejoice in your presence forever, through the teachings of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Thine Is the Glory"

1. Thine is the glo - ry, ri - sen, con - qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ri - sen from the tomb; lo - ving - ly he
3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is nought with -

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than sin - ners,

11

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fol - ded grave - clothes where thy bo - dy lay.
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for our Lord now liv - eth: death hath lost its sting.
 through thy death - less love: bring us safe through Jor - dan to thy home a - bove.

17

Thine is the glo - ry, ri - sen con - qu'ring Son;

21

end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won.



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Marylee Thomsen

Living God, by your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the new light of this day; open our lips to tell of the empty tomb; open our hearts to share the Good News. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Marylee Thomsen

John 20:1-18

^{20:1}Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

MESSAGE: “Tell the Tale” Part 1 — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

What does it mean to know that death has lost its sting? How do you live differently knowing the love of God is greater than the power of death? How might this realization change how you live today and into the future? What fears do you need to bury so that hope can grow?

REFLECTION: “Alleluia” — Chris Wade, *playing his own arrangement*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EASTER | HOLY COMMUNION:

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 with Jesus,
who showed us the way of God’s love.**

Let us give thanks to 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. 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, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. 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. By his life and teachings, you have revealed your love for us, your co-creative ask upon us, and the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower us. By your great love for us we are born anew to a living hope and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your children, declaring your wonderful deeds in Jesus, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

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."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Repeat after Cantor:



Christ was born, Christ is liv - ing, — Christ is born a - gain.

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 preferred future for 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 kingdom. 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 LORD'S PRAYER – Celtic Version:

Holy One beyond all names, Eternal Wellspring,
May love rise again in us today, with food for every table, shelter for every family, and reverence for every life. Forgive us our failings in love, and free us from all falseness. That the light of our souls may shine, and the strength of our spirits endure – for Earth and all its people – this day, tonight, and forever. Amen. – John Philip Newell

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

We belong to God, Jesus has shown us the truth, we are children of God and surrounded by the love of God. Let our lives be proof of the Good News and may our gifts this day carry the good news into the community around us.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Easter Song” — Music Team:

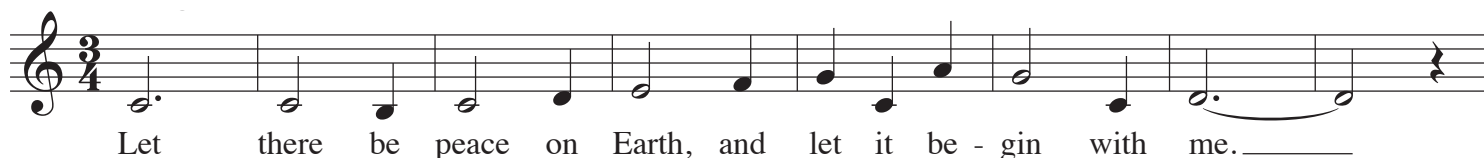
Jennifer Rudy, *soprano* Kara Brouelette, *mezzo-soprano* Jim Orr, *bass*
Dave Albulario, *tenor* Chris Wade, *pianist*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Marylee Thomsen

We praise you, loving God, and give you thanks that you have given us such joy, such grace, and such hope, through the journey and way of Jesus. Let our lives be proof of that good news. 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

You are witnesses to the power and presence of God. You are messengers of the gospel. Go forth to live the good news, preaching the good news through your actions and sharing the love of God through all you 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.

Church Staff:	Rev. Johan Dodge, <i>Pastor</i> Jim Orr, <i>Bass-Baritone</i> Hannah Yi, <i>Pianist</i> Chris Wade, <i>Pianist Emeritus</i>	Jennifer Rudy, <i>Soprano</i> Kara Brouelette, <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i> John Fluker, <i>Pianist</i> Dave Albulario, <i>Tenor / Music Dir.</i> Renate Carnegie, <i>Treasurer</i>
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“Lift High the Cross”

Music by Sydney Hugo Nicholson; Words by George William Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt; © 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

Doxology (*Old Hundredth LM*)

Music by Louis Bourgeois, 1551
Original Words by Thomas Ken, 1674

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Music by Lyra Davidica;
Words by Charles Wesley

“Thine Is the Glory”

Music from *Judas Maccabeus* by George Frideric Handel; Words by Edmond L. Budry; tr. R Birch Hoyle

“Alleluia”

Piano arrangement by Chris Wade

“Easter Song”

Words and Music by Anne Herring; arr. by Joseph M. Martin; © 1974, Arrangement © 2017 Latter Rain Music

LEISURE WORLD COMMUNITY CHURCH

14000 Church Pl, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562-431-2503
CCLI License No. 1872250

“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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

new Taylor White – Taylor underwent major surgery on Tuesday, April 15th at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. Her daughter, Hilary is caring for and says Taylor is tired, but doing well. Further treatment is needed, but so far so good. Prayers for speedy recovery and healing.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and FELLOWSHIP: See below for Easter lily donors and dedications. Today's Fellowship Refreshments are provided by our Fellowship Team. 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.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR: Thursday, April 24th, 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!

MISSIONS TEAM: THANK YOU to all who continually donate to our ongoing food program. Nancy Westcott reports that food donations in April were so generous, that three people had to make two trips to transport the food. *LWCC helps those in need because of you!*

PEACE, LOVE, MUSIC: CALLING ALL HIPPIES **NEXT SUNDAY!** 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. Concert is FREE – Donations Encouraged.*

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

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April 20, 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

God of endless life, in the light of this new day I see the dawning of your new creation. Give me wonder and delight to enjoy this day that you have made; through Jesus Christ, our living lord. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Stay with me Spirit of Joy, for it is evening and the day is almost over. Help me to know that you are with me through the promise of your Son Jesus, in the sharing of a meal, and by the power of divine love that burns within my heart. Bless and keep me this night and always. Amen.