

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 27, 2025
2nd Sunday of Easter

TELL THE TALE Part 2

 **COMMUNITY
CHURCH** LEISURE
WORLD

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 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 — Phyllis Spencer

Christ is risen!

Christ is Risen indeed!

Alleluia! Celebrate God in this sacred space!

Celebrate God in all places under heaven!

Give praise for the love of God!

Give praise for God's resurrecting power!

Praise God with a fanfare of trumpets.

Praise God with the harp and the violin!

Praise God with tambourines and dancing!

Praise God with flutes and guitars!

Praise God with cymbals and drums!

Let everything with life and breath praise God! Amen.

HYMN: "Holy, Holy Holy! Lord God Almighty"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! — Lord — God Al - might - y!
 All the saints a - dore Thee,
 Though the dark - ness hide Thee,

5

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee. —
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea; —
 though the eye of sin - ful ones Thy glo - ry may not see, —

9

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! — Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
 che - ru - bim and se - ra - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
 on - ly Thou art ho - ly; — there is none be - side Thee,

13

God — in three per - sons, — bless - ed Tri - ni - ty!
 which — wert, and art, and — ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in — love, and cha - ri - ty.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

Holy One, you have made us and redeemed us through Christ to be your Kindom and your children, serving with you through your Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Help us to be wounded healers who bring your peace into the world.

We pray for the church around the world in all its local expressions, that we and our leaders may truly be agents of your kin-dom, serving not ourselves but your glory and your dominion.

We pray for religious and secular authorities who speak truth to power. And we pray for those who wield their power unjustly, that they may come to know the error of their ways.

We pray for those who need healing and hope, who cannot see the possibility of new life. And we pray for those who seem bent on destruction and are threatened by new and evolving diversity.

We pray for those in our world who are wounded, those who suffer from war, famine, disease. And we pray for the war mongers, the climate change deniers, and the science skeptical.

God who is and was and is to be, be for us the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the All loving. Grant that we might be your forgiveness, your peace, and your resurrecting good news, through Jesus the Christ who taught us your way of love.

HYMN: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (Tune: HYFRYDOL)

Love di - vine, — all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of Heav'n, to
Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, Kind and lov - ing

Earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwel - ling,
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it;
life — re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,
let — us be; Be for us our one foun - da - tion,

13

all thy faith-ful mer-cies crown, Je-sus, thou art all com-
let us find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of
nev-er-more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways
May we find our strength in thee. Changed from glo-ry in-to

20

pas-sion, pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
bless-ing, serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
glo-ry, E'er with you we take our place, 'Til we cast our

27

thy in-car-na-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
crowns be-fore thee, Lost in won-der, love, and praise!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Phyllis Spencer

Living God, as the named disciples received the tale of your resurrecting love in Jesus and dismissed it as an idle tale, the world around us has also taught us to look with skepticism upon your way of love, light and transformation. May your word enter into us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, and open our hearts to your resurrecting way of transformation. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Phyllis Spencer

Luke 24:1-12

^{24:1}But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words,

⁹and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

MESSAGE: “Tell the Tale” Part 2 — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

What does it mean for us to tell the tale of Jesus in a world, particularly in a country where Christianity seems more aligned with empire than with Jesus? Is the tale of empire the story of Jesus you have been told? Maybe it's the one you have been telling, how might you tell the tale of Jesus who sought not to be king?

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Phyllis Spencer

God gives new life to all that is, including ourselves and all that sustains us. So let our tithes and offerings be our songs of praise and thanksgiving in response to the gift of God who loves us! **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

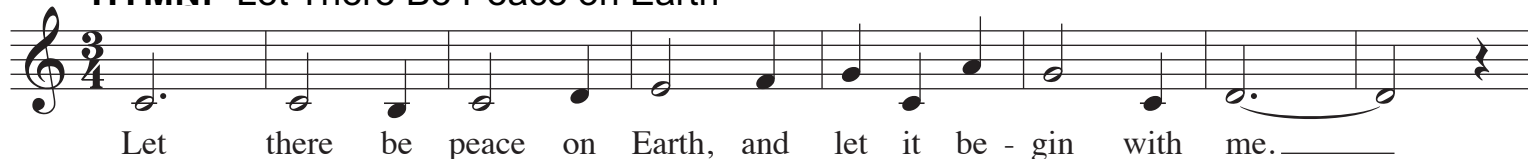
OFFERTORY: “Easter People, Raise Your Voices” — Jennifer Rudy, *soprano*

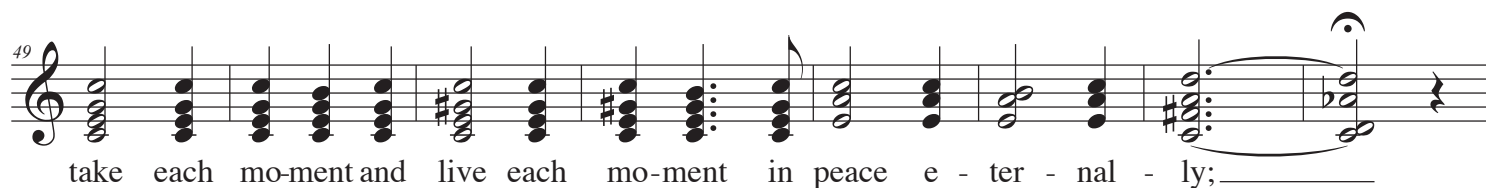
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Phyllis Spencer

Holy One, bless these gifts and transform them into healing for the wounded, hope for the disheartened, courage for the frightened, and faith for the embittered. In the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”



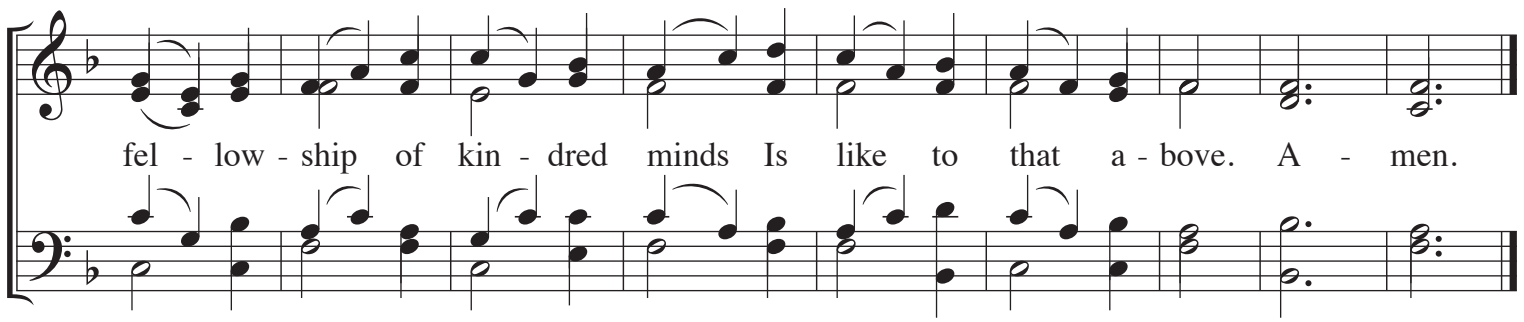


BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

My siblings, the Holy Spirit is breathing the resurrecting life into you and sending you out with the grace and peace of God to bring the kin-dom of God — the way of love into being. May we be the hands and feet of Jesus into the community around us. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH: "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"





Music Team: Jennifer Scoullar, *Soprano*
 Hannah Yi, *Pianist*
 Jim Orr, *Technology*

Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Dir.*
 John Fluker, *Pianist*

Doxology (Old Hundredth LM)

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

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

Tune: *NICAIA* by John B. Dykes
 Words by Reginald Heber, based on
 Rev. 4:8-11

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Tune: *HYFRYDOL* by Rowland H. Prichard
 Harmony from *The English Hymnal*;
 Words by Charles Wesley

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Music by Charles Converse; Piano
 arrangement/improvisation by Fred Bock

"Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

Tune: *REGENT SQUARE* by Henry T. Smart;
 Words by William M. James © 1979
 The United Methodist Publishing House

"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. Nägeli, 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 Taylor White – Taylor underwent major surgery on Tuesday, April 15th at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. She is recovering at Alamitos West Health & Rehabilitation. She is in room 118 and would love to have visitors. For now, she has a room to herself on the first floor with a sliding glass door to the patio. Alamitos West is located at 3902 Katella Ave., Los Alamitos. Prayers for speedy recovery and healing.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and FELLOWSHIP: Today's flowers are provided by Myung Kim, a member of LWKCC. Fellowship refreshments are provided today by Phyllis Spencer. 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, May 1st, join Pastor Johan for "Coffee with Pastor," a weekly time of fellowship & check-in over coffee. Questions? Want to discuss today's message? The weight of the world on your mind? Join us for a cup of coffee or tea with good company. Come & share your thoughts and a cup o' joe!

PEACE, LOVE, MUSIC: TODAY! 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*. Let's spread peace & love throughout Leisure World this afternoon, 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



TODAY! **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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The Season of Easter

First Sunday of Easter — Bulb Flowers



Lilies and other bulb flowers take us through the stages of transformation — bulb — buried, time in the dark of the soil, and the new life shooting forth from the bulb and producing flowers. The hymn of Promise captures this sentiment beautifully.

Second Sunday of Easter — Water



For our Jewish siblings, the mikvah — (gathering of waters) personifies both the womb and the grave and consequently, rebirth. It is regarded as a pure, unadulterated avenue of connection with God; and for that reason, it is a place where hope is reawakened and strengthened.

Third Sunday of Easter — Starfish



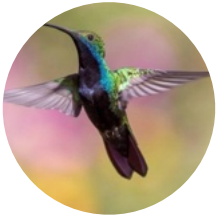
Starfish, like many of our animal siblings, have the ability to regenerate their limbs. Our Native American siblings venerated the starfish for their strength and immortality. The Haida Tribe even has a Starfish Clan.

Fourth Sunday of Easter — Butterfly



The life of the caterpillar as it goes into a cocoon and emerges as a butterfly is perhaps the most common symbol of regeneration, transformation and new life.

Fifth Sunday of Easter — Hummingbird



Just as the Butterfly is the most common symbol of new life, the Hummingbird is perhaps one of the least well known. The seemingly effortless hovering flight of the Hummingbird reminds us of divinity, rebirth, and adaptability as the hummingbird flies from flower to flower.

Sixth Sunday of Easter — Light — Candles



Jesus said — “I am the light of the world “ and he promised his followers that we would walk in the light of life. Lighting a candle can be a powerful reminder that not only is Jesus the light of the world, but we, as his followers are also meant to bear the light of God’s love.

Seventh Sunday of Easter — Triskele



The Triskele — Triple Spiral — is a Celtic symbol used to represent the trinity and the circle of life. The three circles can represent the unity of body, mind, and soul or life, death, and new life. The cycle of life is perpetual — implying hope and the prospect of new beginnings.

April 27, 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 run 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

Gracious God, you are the God who is and was and is to be. Thank you for the gift of Jesus who has shown me that your love for me exceeds my doubt about myself. Grant me a deeper sense, as I move through this day, of what it means to say that you are my beginning and my end. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Jesus, tonight I remember that your gospel gives me the power to forgive any and all, through the gift of your Holy Spirit, and that includes forgiving myself. Breathe your peace into me and embrace me with your freedom and love this night. Amen.