



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

May the 4th, 2025

3rd Sunday of Easter

SEE THE LIGHT



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 — Jeanette Williams

Living God, you meet us in unexpected places and surprise us with the abundance of your love. Feed us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit so that we may follow you this day, and always; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our teacher. Amen.

HYMN: "Amazing Grace"

A - maz - ing - ing - grace! How sweet the sound that
I sing the sad of heart to cheer, for
Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares, I
Our God has prom - ised good to me, The
When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

6

loved and set me free! (Oh, —) I once — was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; (Oh, —) how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; (Oh, —) 'tis grace — hath brought me
 Word my hope se - cures; (Oh, —) God will — my — shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, (Oh, —) we've no — less days to

12

now — am — found; was blind, but now I see. —
 grace — ap - pear the hour I — first be - lieved. —
 safe — thus — far, and grace will lead me home. —
 por - tion — be, as long as — life en - dures. —
 sing — God's praise than when we'd first be - gun. —

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

Loving God, in the light of your love we see the evil of the world casting shadows of doubt and fear. We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith; give them freedom, peace, and safety.

We pray for those who breathe curses and threats; give them new hearts and new lives to glorify you.

We pray for those who work by day and night; give them satisfaction and rest from their labors.

We pray for those who fear their efforts are in vain; fill their lives with your providence and grace.

We pray for all who suffer in sickness and grief; give them healing, hope, and joy.

We pray for the faithful in very nation of the earth; give them voices to share your love forever.

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus, who loves us, who feeds us, who taught us the way. **Amen.**

HYMN: "All Are Welcome"

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely
 2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and
 3. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and
 4. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions

live, A place where saints and children tell how
 true, Where all God's children dare to seek to
 stone To heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard And loved and treas - ured, taught and claimed as

hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's love a - new Here the cross shall stand as
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace, Here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
 stran - ger bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
 laugh - ter, pray'rs of faith and songs of grace, Let this

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the end faith of Je - sus:
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger: All are wel - come,
 house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:

all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Jeanette Williams

O God of light, by the power of your Holy Spirit, restore our sight, that in these days we may see your love shining through the darkness of our fear and doubt. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Jeanette Williams

Psalms 30

¹I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

²O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.

³O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

⁴Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.

⁵For his anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

⁶As for me, I said in my prosperity,
“I shall never be moved.”

⁷By your favor, O Lord,
you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face;
I was dismayed.

⁸To you, O Lord, I cried,
and to the Lord I made supplication:

⁹“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?”

¹⁰Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!
O Lord, be my helper!”

¹¹You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,

¹²so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Acts of the Apostles 9:1-20

The Conversion of Saul

^{9:1}Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank. ¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

MESSAGE: "See the Light" — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

How do we see the light in the midst of the darkness? Jesus chose Peter, who had denied Jesus in his hour of need, to tend his sheep. He chose Paul, who had persecuted Jesus' followers, to proclaim the good news. Where have you been caught in doubt or fear? Where have you have been caught in the grip of empire and how did the light and love of God set you free? Do you need to be set free right now?

REFLECTION: "I See A Light" — Chris Wade, *pianist*

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:

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The second staff starts with a measure rest marked '9'. The third staff starts with a measure rest marked '16'. The fourth staff starts with a measure rest marked '23'. 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. 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 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 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 — Jeanette Williams

Jesus calls us to feed his lambs and tend his sheep. Let us show and share his love through the offering of our lives and livelihood. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Supper of the Lord” — David Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Jeanette Williams

Worthy are you, O God, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. Receive these gifts of gratitude and use them for the good of your people as we build the kin-dom of God together with you. 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 we go forth this day, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide your eyes to see the light, and may the love of God empower you to be the light that others experience in the world, and together may we expel the darkness of fear and doubt and give courage to those who have been in darkness to become light bearers. **Amen.**

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM — Rev. Johan Dodge

Mothering God:

When nothing existed but chaos,

you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah

you saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,

you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan

to the land which you promised.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,

nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.

He called his disciples

to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection

and to make disciples of all nations.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,

to bless this gift of water and those who receive it.

SENDING FORTH: “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Alto) and piano accompaniment. It is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes that support the vocal lines.

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.

***You are invited to come forward, touch the water,
and take a glass bead from the water.***

Music Team: Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Dir.*
Chris Wade, *Pianist Emeritus*

Jennifer Rudy, *Soprano*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*
John Fluker, *Pianist*

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

"Amazing Grace"
Tune: *NEW BRITAIN*, attr. to James Carrell
Words by John Newton, 1772; Public Domain

"All Are Welcome"
Words and Music by Marty Haugen
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7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638

"I See A Light"
Music by Sheridan Seyfried
Piano arrangement by Chris Wade

"Supper of the Lord"
Music & Words by Laurence Rosania
© 1994, Laurence Rosania. Published by OCP

"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ageli, 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.*

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CCLI License No. 187225

PRAYER REQUESTS

new **Patricia Wolfe** – Patricia’s daughter and son-in-law are expecting a baby. Prayers for a smooth pregnancy, and a healthy baby.

new **Mary Maness** – Mary continues to adjust well to her new home. She sends love to everyone. Please remember her son, Mark, in your prayers. He still has difficulty adjusting to the move and has problems with pain management.

update **Taylor White** – Taylor underwent major surgery on Tuesday, April 15th at Long Beach Memorial Hospital, and has been back and forth between recover center and the hospital. Prayers for speedy recovery and healing.

Our LWCC Prayer Chapel is a quiet place to pray that is always open. These prayer requests were recently left in the chapel:

- Prayers for Ron – may he feel God’s guidance.
- Prayers for Jeishyel, Marc, and Jennifer.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and FELLOWSHIP: Today’s Flowers are provided anonymously. Fellowship refreshments are provided by Steve Martinez. 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.

MOTHER'S DAY TEA: Next Sunday, May 11th, immediately following Sunday Worship, a proper Mother’s Day Tea will be served in Edgar Fellowship Hall, honoring the women in our congregation, complete with finger sandwiches, fresh fruit, and sweet treats.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR: Thursday, May 8th, 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 coffee or tea with good company. Come and share your thoughts and a cup o’ joe!

RECENT LWCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

April 6th: 36 | April 13th: 36 | April 20th: 45 | April 27th: 36

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 — 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.

Third Sunday of Easter — Water



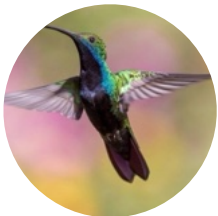
For our Jewish siblings, the mikvah — (gathering of waters) personifies both the womb and the grave and consequently, rebirth. It is regarded as a pure, unadulterated avenue of connection with God; and for that reason, it is a place where hope is reawakened and strengthened.

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.



May the 4th, 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, as Saul was converted to Paul, may I be converted in your Holy Spirit to not only see your light but also to bring your light into the places of darkness around me. May your light shine brightly into my innermost being and drive out the darkness of despair and fear and may your light fill me with love. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Gracious God, I praise you for the blessing of this day and the promise of tomorrow. Be my aide as night falls and my joy when morning coming; I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.