



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 11, 2025

4th Sunday of Easter – Mother's Day



Up! Rising Women



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 — Lois Dimos



Ever-present God, to whom all love belongs, you are here to guide our journey and are ever ready to welcome us back when we have strayed from your way. May your Spirit abide with us in this time of turning our attention from ourselves to you and continue to guide us as we go forth filled with your love and your guidance to sew love into the fabric of the world around us. **Amen.**

HYMN: "Jesus, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Je - sus, like a shep-herd lead us, — much we need thy ten - der care;
We are thine, do thou be - friend us, — be the guard-ian of our way;
Thou hast prom-ised to re - ceive us, — poor and low - ly though we be;
Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do thy will;

5

in thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, — for our use thy folds pre - pare;
keep thy flock, from sin de - fend us, — seek us when we go a - stray:
thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, — grace to cleanse and pow'r to free:
bless - ed Je - sus Christ a - mong us, — with thy love our bo - soms fill:

9

bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou has loved us, thine we are;
hear, O hear us when we pray;
let us ear - ly turn to thee;
thou hast loved us, love us still;

14

bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou has loved us, thine we are.
hear, O hear us when we pray.
let us ea - ly turn to thee.
thou hast loved us, love us still.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

In this season of Easter rejoicing, let us lift in prayer those individuals, places, and situations that come to mind.

For the goodness of the earth, that it may flourish with flowing waters, verdant pastures, and paths that lead us to protect and care for your creation.

For the peace and welfare of the world, that all our tables of work and worship promote the understanding and dignity that transform enemies into friends.

For all who suffer with sickness, need or danger, that all our afflictions and fears are met with healing and the comforting presence of your voice.



For the blessings we receive and share, that we may live a life of ceaseless praise for the salvation that is ours through you.

For the saints in light, that you will wipe every tear from their eyes as they dwell with you eternally.

Holy God, you are our hope and our guide, our light and our love. With all of those who have gone before us, we praise your holy name and turn our lives over to you. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]



HYMN: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor;
Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; Thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
to Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

17 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

22 morn - ing, new mer - cies I see. All I have need - ed Thy

27 hand hath pro - vid - ed. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness,

31 1, 2. Lord un - to me! Final Lord un - to me!

[please be seated]



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Lois Dimos

Shepherd of Souls, you call us to an abundant feast at the table of your word; open our hearts to feed on your goodness, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may dwell more deeply in you. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Lois Dimos

Acts of the Apostles 9:36-43

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took

him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

MESSAGE: “Women Rising Up” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Is this scripture passage about Peter, or is it about Tabitha? Perhaps it is about both and yet, when we learn about the early disciples, is Tabitha listed among them? What might we have to unlearn to accept that Tabitha is not only a follower of Jesus, but a critical disciple who is living in the way of Jesus. Where might we need to raise up the stories of women?

REFLECTION: “Be Thou My Vision” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Lois Dimos

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Trusting in divine care, let us present our tithes and offerings to God who restores our lives eternally.
Amen.

[Ushers, please come forward]

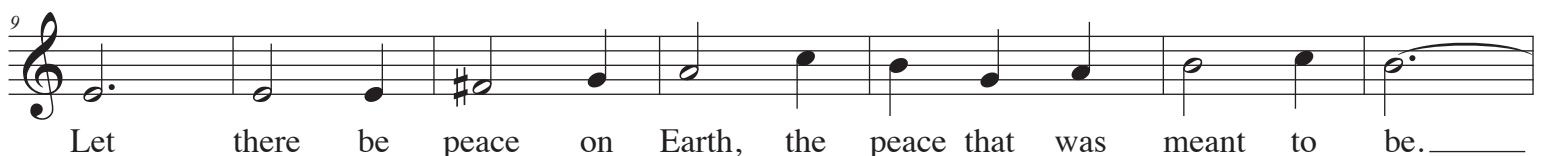
OFFERTORY: “Because You Loved Me” — Jennifer Rudy, *soprano*

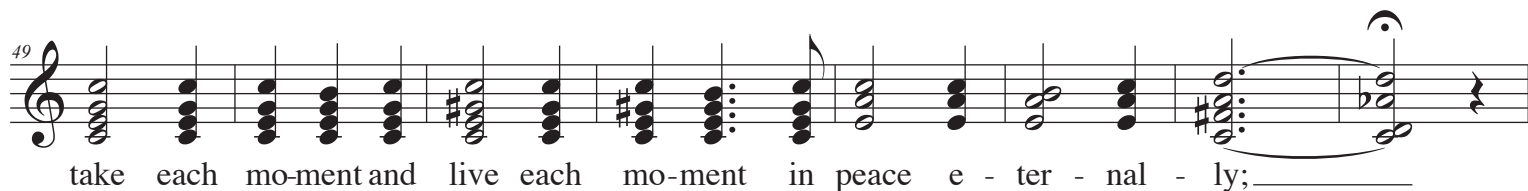
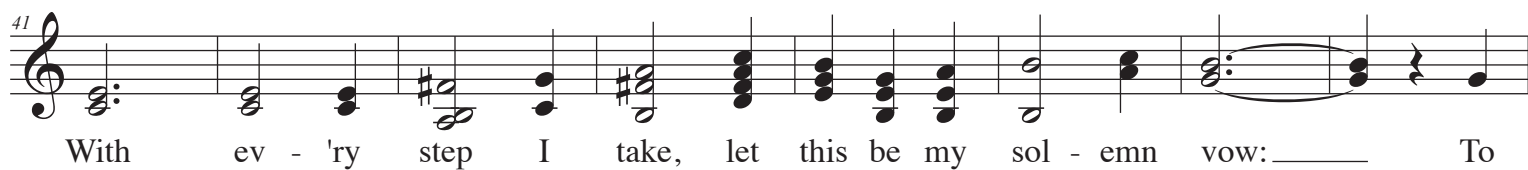
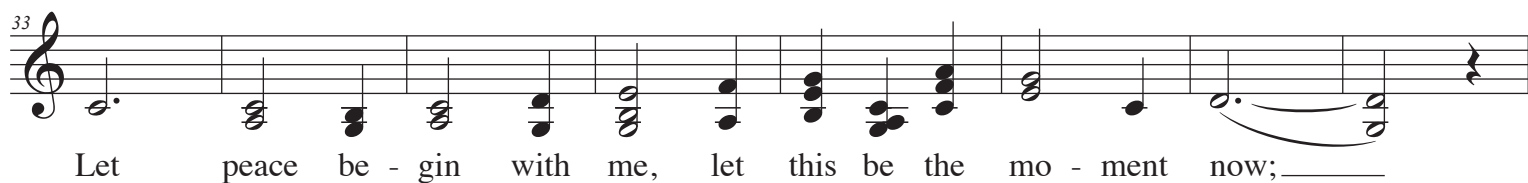
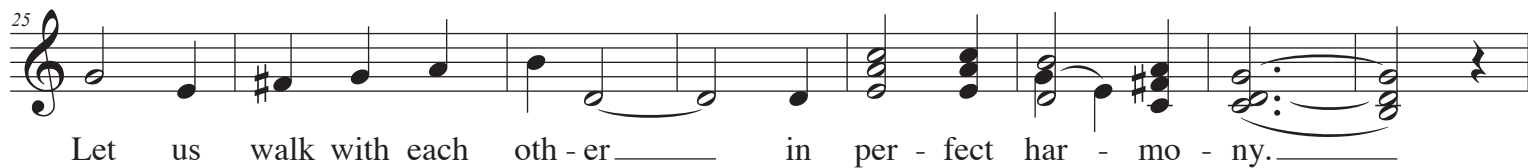
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Lois Dimos

Holy God, Divine Shepherd, you anoint us with the oil of gladness; your love overflows our hearts. Accept our offering for the good of your world as we joyfully give thanks for our life in you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”





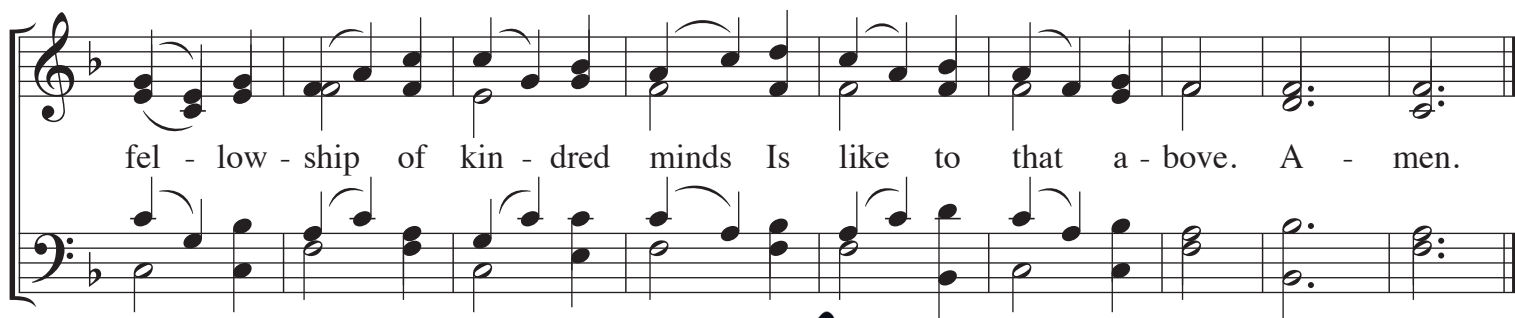
BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

May you rise up this day and every day forward. May you bring the stories to light that would otherwise be forgotten and may our story bear the light and love of God. **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

"Jesus, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"
Tune: *NICAEA* by John B. Dykes
Words by Reginald Heber, based on
Rev. 4:8-11

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
Tune: *HYFRYDOL* by Rowland H. Prichard
Harmony from *The English Hymnal*;
Words by Charles Wesley

"Be Thou My Vision"
Traditional Irish Tune: *SLANE*;
Piano arrangement by Mark Hayes

"Because You Loved Me"
Music & Words by Diane Warren
© 1996 Realsongs and Touchstone Pics Songs
& Music, USA

"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.*

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CCLI License No. 1872250

PRAYER REQUESTS

- new** **Mattias Dodge** – Pastor Johan's son, Mattias recently broke his leg during a hockey game. Since then, the bone has shifted and has been reset with a new cast. In another week they will know whether surgery will be required or not. Prayers for good results and a speedy recovery.
- new** **Sandy Walker** – Prayers requested for Sandy's friend, Alexander, who had major surgery this past Friday, May 9th. Prayers welcome for a speedy recovery and healing.
- update** **Taylor White** – Taylor continues to recover at Alamos Belmont Health & Rehabilitation in Long Beach. She loves visitors, so please *schedule a visit with Taylor's daughter Hilary at 562-225-7401*. Prayers for speedy recovery and healing.
- update** **Mary Maness** – Mary appreciates her continued connection to LWCC as she adjusts 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.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and FELLOWSHIP: Today's Mother's Day flowers and refreshments are provided by the 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.

CHANGE for CHANGE: The Missions Team has updated the name of "Dimes for Hunger" to "Change for Change." The green collection box is in the church office, and on Sundays look for it in Edgar Fellowship Hall. The funds collected will be donated to Precious Life, an organization that provides assistance and a safe environment for young mothers with no place to live.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR: Thursday, May 15th, 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!



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



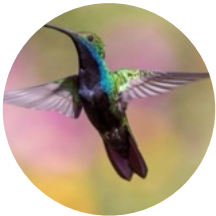
For our Jewish siblings, the mikvah — (gathering of waters) personifies both the womb and the grave and consequently, rebirth. It is regarded as a pure, unadulterated avenue of connection with God; and for that reason, it is a place where hope is reawakened and strengthened.

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 11, 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

Holy God, out of every tribe, language and nation, you have called your people to be your family, to love and care daily in a world of beauty, complexity, and diversity. Help me honor and respect the dignity of difference as I seek to be one with you and those around me this day and always. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

O shepherd of all, you have brought me to the close of another day; for this gift and the blessings I now name, I give you thanks ...

All that I have and all that I am come from you; and so, trusting in the goodness of your divine care, let me lie down this night in peace, that tomorrow I may rise to greet you in resurrection joy. Amen.