



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 25, 2025
6th Sunday of Easter

Rev. Johan Dodge



PEOPLES

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 — Virginia Olejnik

Astonishing God, you give us a vision of the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem, your home among mortals on earth. All people and nations will stream to your city where they will find nourishment, healing, and peace. Even now your blessing shines upon all the earth to help us see the larger vision of your loving care for all of creation. And so you call us to move beyond our comfortable circles, and into unfamiliar places, as we seek to share your dream of a world made new in Christ. Amen.

HYMN: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

I am weak, but thou art strong; (art strong,) Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; —
Through this world of toil and snares, — If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? —
When my fee - ble life is o'er, — Time for me will be no more; —

5

I'll be sat - is - fied as long — (just as long) as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 Who with me my bur - den shares? — None but thee, dear — Lord, none but thee.
 Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er — to thy kin - dom — shore, to thy shore.

9

Just a clos - er walk with thee, (with thee,) Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, —

13

Dai - ly walk - ing close to thee, — (to thee,) Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

All creation lives to praise you, O God. Loving God, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Let us offer our prayers and thanksgivings this day.

As the earth yields its blessing, may we honor and protect the precious gifts of nature and give thanks for the beauty, healing, and sustenance it provides for all.

You bless your church through all the ages with leaders like Paul and Lydia to share in the spreading of the good news. Give to your church this day a profound sense of the mission to which you now call us for the life and health of the world.

Give to all leaders and people the gift of wisdom and the spirit of peace, that as people of peace we may walk by your light as we serve the common good.

Give to all who suffer violence, grief, or pain an enduring trust that joy will rise again.

We give thanks for the many blessings of our lives that as we follow in the way of Jesus, you Holy Spirit journeys with us.

Loving God, you are the Alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. Be with those who are born this day, and with those who will die, so that living or dying we may continue to abide in you and your love for all creation.
Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

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. 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 with the love of — God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py — gold - en — day.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of — peace.

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



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Virginia Olejnik

Living God, you sent your apostles to preach the gospel gathered by a river, in a secluded place of prayer. There, a businesswoman named Lydia was led by the Spirit to hear your word of love. You opened her heart in love, and she opened her home for the spreading of the gospel. By the power of your Holy Spirit, fling wide the doors of our hearts this day as we hear your word of love, that we too may open our lives to serve your world in love. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Virginia Olejnik

Acts of the Apostles 16:9-15

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

MESSAGE: "Ripples" — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

When Lydia hears the gospel, she becomes the first Christian in Europe. Led by the Spirit, Lydia's faith is decisive and her witness is immediate. The word opens her heart in love, and she opens her house in hospitality in service of the gospel. How might Lydia's witness excite your sense of ministry and mission this day? Where might you find someone searching for God's love?

REFLECTION: “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Virginia Olejnik

The earth has yielded its increase and God has richly blessed us. Therefore, bring your tithes and offerings and come into God’s courts with praise.

Amen.

[Ushers, please come forward]

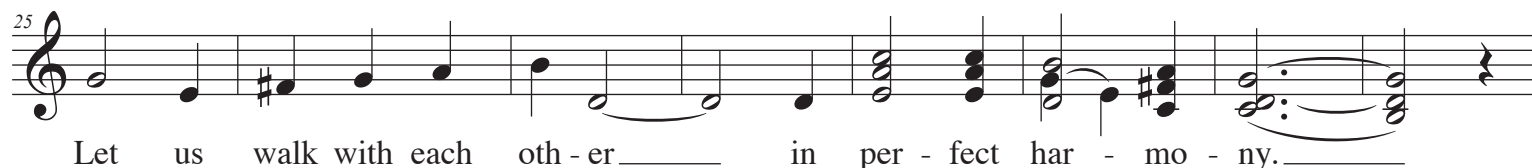
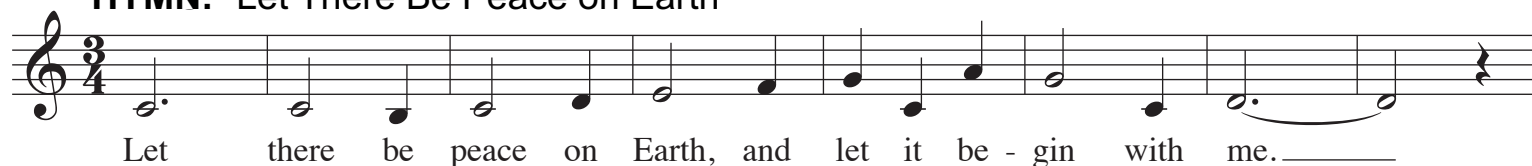
OFFERTORY: “Here I Am, Lord” — Jennifer Rudy, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Virginia Olejnik

Giving God, as spring bursts forth its blossoms in witness to your love, you bless us from generation to generation with the new life of Easter faith. All that we have and all that we are come from you, O God, so we gladly share this offering that others too may be blessed, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”



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

God is gracious and ever loving. You are blessed that you may live in love, abide in peace, and serve God, for God's love is ever present. **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: Jennifer Rudy, *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

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"
Traditional African American Folk Song
Add'l Music & Lyrics by Kenneth Morris

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

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
Tune: *NETTLETON* by John Wyeth
Piano arrangement by Amy L. Potter

"Here I Am, Lord"
Music & Words by Dan Schutte, Arranged by
Craig Courtney, Words based on Isaiah 6

"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 geli, 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

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 Jim & Lois Dimos. Fellowship refreshments are provided by Cindy Pierskalla. 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 29th, 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! As always, **ALL** are invited and welcome!

FAREWELL LUNCHEON: After Worship on Sunday, June 1st, during Fellowship in Edgar Hall, we will host a Farewell Luncheon for **Renate Carnegie**. Renate has served as LWCC Treasurer for eight years and will be retiring to Idaho where she and her husband, Danny (*who has also served as volunteer for LWCC*) will be close to their children and grandchildren. We love you, Renate!

GERSHWIN CONCERT – FATHER'S DAY: Sunday, June 15th, at 3:30 PM, LWCC resident pianist, John Fluker, will direct & perform ***The Music of the Gershwin Brothers – a Father's Day Concert!*** with the vocal talents of LWCC resident soprano Jennifer Rudy, alto Lisa Margaroli, bass Sean Gabel, and narrated by our own Dave Albulario. Featuring Gershwin hits like "Embraceable You," "Fascinating Rhythm," "Someone to Watch Over Me," "S'Wonderful," "Summertime," and more. Tickets are \$15 seniors/students, \$20 general, and **free tickets** are available, by request, as usual.

RECENT LWCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

April 27th: 36 | May 4th: 36 | May 11th: 41 | May 18th: 35



The Music of the **GERSHWIN BROTHERS**

A Father's Day Concert of Music by
George & Ira Gershwin



Pianist/vocalist John Fluker, alto vocalist Lisa Margaroli, soprano vocalist Jennifer Rudy, & bass vocalist Sean Gabel.

Sunday, June 15, 2025 • 3:30 PM

Featuring Gershwin hits like "Embraceable You," "Fascinating Rhythm," "Someone to Watch Over Me," "S'Wonderful," "Summertime," and more, accompanied by their life stories beautifully written by Grace Zangwill. LEISURE WORLD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 14000 Church Pl, Seal Beach, CA 90740. Tickets at the door or by calling 562-431-2503.

\$15 for Seniors/Students

\$20 General

All-Are-Welcome Tickets: *FREE*

If you wish to attend, but are unable to pay for a ticket, ask for an "All-Are-Welcome Ticket," and it's yours for free. Those with means are invited to subsidize these tickets with your contribution.

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



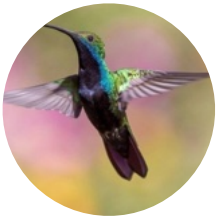
For our Jewish siblings, the mikvah — (gathering of waters) personifies both the womb and the grave and consequently, rebirth. It is regarded as a pure, unadulterated avenue of connection with God; and for that reason, it is a place where hope is reawakened and strengthened.

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 25, 2025



GROW
PRAY
STUDY

Notes from the Service

[illegible]

My Prayers this week:

Prayer Journal

Use these prayers in your time with God each day.

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy Spirit, enliven in me faith and witness like Lydia's that through deepens prayer I might rise to action in service of your message of love. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, it is night and my time for sleep has come. I have served you in love this day and for this I give you thanks. Do not leave me comfortless, but send your Spirit to abide with us as we trust in you this night. Amen.