



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



June 1, 2025
7th Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday



We Are Risen



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 — Marylee Thomsen

God of Love, you call us to your everlasting springs to be drenched and reformed. Keep us near to you that by the power of the bond between us and the light of your Word we might drink of your living water, know true joy, and share that joy into the world around us. Amen.



HYMN: "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain

Lift — high the cross, — the love of Christ pro - claim — 'til

5

all the world — a - dore — God's sa - cred — name. —

Fine

Verses

9

Come, — Chris - tians, fol - low this tri - um - phant sign, The —
 Each — new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears —
 O — Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, as —
 So — shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: Praise —

13

hosts — of — God — in — u - ni - ty com - bine.
 on — the — brow — the — seal of him who died.
 thou — hast — prom - ised, draw the world to thee.
 to — the — Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

D.C. al Fine

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

Jesus prayed that we might be one. Let us then pray for the needs of the world with the understanding that the needs of the world are our needs and our needs are to be the needs of the world. Let us Pray.

God, our source of love and our light, you show us your new creation every day. You feed and clothe us and give us joy in your good earth. We praise you our home and our true blessing.

We pray for unity among all peoples — the body of Christ, rent by conflict, that we may be one; for people of all faiths to honor one another; and for the end of religious wars.

For peace among nations, between tribes, on school yards, in academic halls, within legislative bodies, and around kitchen tables in every home.

For the church's mission to live the love of God into the world, that the world might know the new life possible in turning our lives from selfishness to loving one another.

For the well-being of the earth and its creatures; for the oceans and rivers, heavens and depths, soil and dust; for plants and fish and birds and mammals, who together with ourselves are fed and blessed each day by the air, food, and water you provide.

For all people who cry out to you in this hardened time; for the people who do not have work, those who have no safety net; those without dining tables or beds; those who do not have enough food or the ability to get their own food.

For those concerns we name now silently or aloud ...

Into your hands, Gracious God, we pray all these things, asking you to hear our thanksgiving's and our pleas, knowing you hear more than we are comfortable to share and will abide with us through all things as they transpire. **Amen.**



[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou
2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voi - ces of truth thou
3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth

4
hast for me; Place in my hands the won-der - ful key
send - est clear; And while the wave - notes fall on my ear,
ev' - ry-where; O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare

7
that shall un - clasp and set me free;
ev' - ry - thing false will dis - ap - pear; Si - lent - ly now I
love with thy chil - dren, thus to share;

10
wait for thee, rea - dy, my God, thy will to see;

13
O - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spi - rit di - vine! —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Marylee Thomsen

Holy God, whose voice is heard in the thunder and in the silence, speak to us now, by the power of your Spirit, that we may hear your word for us today. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**



SCRIPTURE — Marylee Thomsen

Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34

¹⁶ One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city ²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe.”

²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

John 17:20-26

²⁰ “I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.”

MESSAGE: “We Are Risen” — Rev. Johan Dodge



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

What drags you down? What holds you back? What keeps you from experiencing the love of God completely? What keeps you from living the love of God fully?

REFLECTION: “Cornerstone” — John Fluker, *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:

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:



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 — Marylee Thomsen

Give now with generous hearts that all people may know God's love and be helped by our hands and the ripples of God's love emanating from us.

Amen.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: "Shout to the Lord" — David Albulario, *tenor*

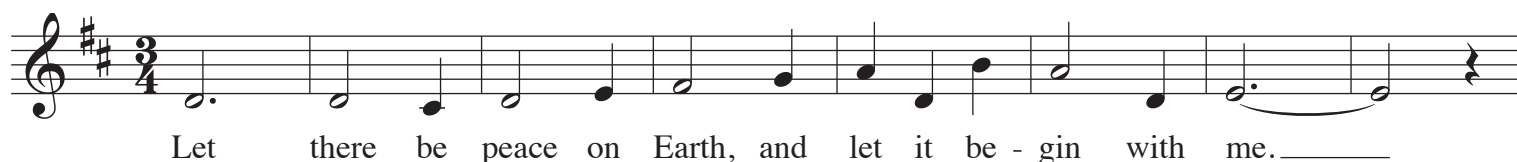


PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Marylee Thomsen

Eternal God, who brings joy out of sorrow, plenty out of want, life out of death: we thank you for the treasures of this earth, your creation filled with your blessing, for it was in company with these earthly things that your son came to dwell, showing us the enormousness of your love. As we rise with you in our journey toward complete love, may these gifts serve as the yeast for others to rise with us. 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

May you go forth this day with joy to live as one body with the God who sends you out on the wind to raise the world around you. Let the love that is in you ripple out that the Holy Spirit may lift up those around you. **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: Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Dir.*
John Fluker, *Pianist*

Jennifer Rudy, *Soprano*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*
Jim Orr, *Technology*

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

"Lift High the Cross"
Music by Sydney Hugo Nicholson
Words by George William Kitchin & Michael Robert Newbolt; © 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"
Music and Words by Clara H. Scott
Public Domain. Source: Hymnary.org

"Cornerstone"
Music by Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, and Reuben Morgan. Piano arrangement by John Fluker

"Shout to the Lord"
Words and Music by Darlene Zschech
Arranged by Jack Schrader

"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. 187225

PRAYER REQUESTS

new **Virginia ‘Ginny’ Olejnik** – Ginny spent a few days in the hospital for sodium deficiency. She is home now and recovering well. Prayers for general good health and healing.

update **Taylor White** – Taylor underwent major surgery on Tuesday, April 15th at Long Beach Memorial Hospital, and is now at home where she continues to recover. She is fortunate to have the support and love of her friends and family. No visitors for now, but prayers for continued healing and general good health are appreciated.

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 our country – for healing from division and estrangement.
- Prayers for Jeishyel, Della, and Mila.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and **FELLOWSHIP**: Today’s flowers are provided by Patty Jo Schmitz. Fellowship refreshments are provided by our Fellowship Team in honor of retiring LWCC Treasurer, Renate Carnegie. 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, June 5th, 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 TODAY!: After Worship today, please join us in Edgar Fellowship Hall, as we bid a fond farewell to **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, and we will miss you!

VOICE RECITAL: Tomorrow evening, Monday June 2, 2025, at 7 PM, vocalist **Chloe Ness** will perform a FREE Voice Recital in artistic collaboration with LWCC resident pianist **Hannah Yi**. The program will include music from Classical, Broadway Musical Theater, and Jazz charts. **Admission is free.**

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:

May 4th: 36 | May 11th: 41 | May 18th: 35 | May 25th: 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



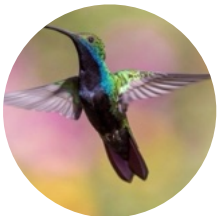
For our Jewish siblings, the mikvah — (gathering of waters) personifies both the womb and the grave and consequently, rebirth. It is regarded as a pure, unadulterated avenue of connection with God; and for that reason, it is a place where hope is reawakened and strengthened.

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.

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.

June 1, 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

Good and gracious God, I rise with the morning light to give you thanks for rest and dreams, for warmth and safety, for the delight we have again today in a life filled with your goodness. Keep me in your care this day that I may walk in your path, glad for my friends, praying for those who annoy me, and eager to be your love in the world. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, for all that I have done and all that I have failed to do this day I turn it all over to you. Forgive me my moments of weakness and rejoice with me over the moments that I carried your love into the world. Bless your people in every land with peace and protect me now through the night that I may wake again to praise your name. May your Holy Spirit abide in me. Amen.