



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 22, 2025
2nd Sunday After Pentecost

Freedom From Possession



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 — Virginia Olejnik

Ever-Loving and Ever-Present God, you invite us to cast out evil, tear down walls of division, comfort and challenge the world to see your way of love as the way forward. Grant that we may lift up the discouraged, strengthen the doubting, and join with all who seek to bring your kin-dom into this world. Amen.

HYMN: "In Christ There Is No East or West"

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in
2. In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their
3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -

4

Him no south or north, but one com - mu - ni -
 high com - mu - nion find; His ser - vice is the
 e'er your race may be. All child - ren of the

7

ty of love through - out the whole wide Earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

When forces in the world threaten us, when our bodies turn against us, there is one who seeks us, one who meets us, one who heals us. Let us turn to the source of love as we now pray.

We pray for the coming of your kin-dom. Let the earth be made whole and new; let the sky be made clean and refreshed. May all creation join you in your way of love.

We pray for the nations and people of the world. Let us receive your Spirit with gladness. Grant world leaders wisdom and humility, that they may serve in your way of love, working for peace. Give us ears to attend to the voices of poets and prophets, through whom your Spirit speaks.

We pray for the most vulnerable: for creatures threatened with extinction ... for those of the human family who are poor, houseless, or refugees ... victims of political, domestic, or economic violence ... those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit ... Grant us compassionate hearts, inspired minds, and wills resolved to care for our neighbors with the love of God through the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "This Little Light of Mine"

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine,
Ev - 'ry - where I go, Je - sus gave it to me,

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine;
Ev - 'ry - where I go, Je - sus gave it to me,

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine,
Ev - 'ry - where I go, Je - sus gave it to me,

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Virginia Olejnik

Loving God, your words feed us, the Word frees us, and the Spirit gives us life.
Grant our ears an appetite for hearing and our spirits strength for loving you.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE — Virginia Olejnik

Galatians 5:1,13-25

¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ^[e] have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Luke 9:51-62

⁵¹When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, ⁵³but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them.

⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” ⁵⁹To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

⁶⁰And Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹Another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” ⁶²And Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

MESSAGE: “Freedom from Possession” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Where do the trappings of Empire possess your thoughts about God?
Where do you need to let go of the ideas of a God of punishment and control? How does the God of love as revealed through Jesus empower you to turn to the Holy Spirit and release those around you who are still trapped in empire?

REFLECTION: “Give Thanks” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST:

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.

God is in you.

We are in God.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift up our hearts in love.

Let us give thanks to the source of all love.

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. Almighty God, creator of heaven and 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, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

At his ascension you exalted him to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

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 — Virginia Olejnik

God gives us more than enough for our journey of faith. Let us present our tithes and offerings so that others may know their blessings and give thanks to God. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Fill My Cup, Lord” — Jennifer Rudy, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Virginia Olejnik

Triune God, through Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, you bring hope to the despairing, healing to the sick, and release from bondage to all who are oppressed by sin and evil. In Jesus we have learned that you cover us with your love. We thank you for drawing us together and ask that your healing waters would wash away all that separates us from you and one another. We thank you that in this new life we are set free to proclaim the good news of your love to others. Direct our gifts to fulfill your purpose this day and in the days to come. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me. _____

Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be. _____

With God, our Cre - a - tor, _____ we are fam - i - ly. _____

Let us walk with each oth - er _____ in per - fect har - mo - ny. _____

Let peace be - gin with me, let this be the mo - ment now; _____

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

Rejoice in the love of God by loving others and building the kin-dom of God as we go forth to live as the body of Christ. **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.

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

"In Christ There Is No East or West"
Music by Alexander Robert Reinagle;
Words by John Oxenham

"This Little Light of Mine"
Traditional African American Spiritual;
Harmony by Horace Clarence Boyer;
Words based on Matthew 5:14-16

"Give Thanks"
Music by Henry Smith
Piano arrangement by Mark Hayes

"Fill My Cup, Lord"
Words and Music by Richard Blanchard
© 1964 Word Music, LLC

"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.*

LEISURE WORLD COMMUNITY CHURCH
14000 Church Pl, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562-431-2503 /// CCLI License No. 187225

Music Team: Jennifer Rudy, *Soprano*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Our **LWCC Prayer Chapel** is a quiet place to pray that is always open. This anonymous prayer request was recently left in the chapel:

- *“Dear God, Thank you for your grace to Daniel and David’s family.”*

Whenever 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 and Fellowship refreshments are provided by Mo Ashley. 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 26th, 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!

DOUBLE PIANO CONCERT: On Sunday, July 13th, LWCC resident pianist Hannah Yi, will perform a *Double Piano Concert* entitled *“Key Conversations”* with fellow pianist Susan Kim-Pedroza. The performance will feature music by Anderson and Roe, Rachmaninoff, Gershwin, and more, played on **TWO PIANOS SIMULTANEOUSLY**: our legacy Yamaha grand piano, and our newly-donated Baldwin grand piano – *courtesy of Will Mulcahy and the Mulcahy Family, in memory of their mother Judy Mulcahy.*

NEED A BIBLE?: Free Bibles on the small bookshelf in the narthex. *Help yourself.*

RECENT LWCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

May 25th: 36 | June 1st: 35 | June 8th: 32 | June 8th: 31

PEACE LOVE HOPE
JOY KINDNESS
COMPASSION MUSIC

Key Conversations



Susan Kim-Pedroza and Hannah Yi

July 13th | 3:30pm

Leisure World Community Church
14000 Church Pl. Seal Beach 90740

**Featuring works written for 2 Pianos and 4 Hands
By Anderson and Roe, Rachmaninoff, Gershwin and More**



SCAN TO BUY TICKETS
OR CALL 562-431-2503

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.
Amen.

Dear Members of Leisure World Community Church,

At “Coffee with Pastor” the other day, someone brought up the fear that we will all be eating gruel again soon, the way things are going in this country and I shared that we are indeed at a tipping point, but we have control over which tipping point we tip toward. One direction is led by the Holy Spirit toward a world of inclusion, love, and safety for all. The other direction gives more to those with the most and leaves us eating gruel. The time for dynamic action is now. This is the season of the Holy Spirit sent to bring transformation to the world through you and me.

To that end, our Pentecost Offering is being dedicated to the work of missions that we support around the world. As we look around on Sunday morning, we may feel insignificant, but we are part of a much larger church that is organized and active in mission both here in the United States and around the world. As U.S. government support for Ukraine decreases, we are stepping in to fill some of the gaps and create facilities for communities displaced by the war. In the Philippines, we are assisting communities suffering through major storms and the environmental impact of three oil-carrying ships that sank in the storms. Here in the United States, we have a director of FEMA who is quoted as saying “I didn’t know we had a hurricane season.” But we also have our own ministry that not only knows there is a hurricane season each year, we prepare for it collect resources so that health kits and hygiene kits can be distributed to communities where basic food, water, and sanitation systems have failed.

At Pentecost, we are given the opportunity to reflect again on the mystery of God’s continual care for us, to give thanks for the Spirit which sustains us, and to continue to look for the authentic signs of God’s presence in our midst. We believe that God is Love and that we are surrounded in God’s Love even as we are surrounded by God. This indwelling of the Holy Spirit empowers us to recreate the face of the earth in the image of God’s love. Our special offering this Pentecost season is in lieu of our Easter offering, and will go to support the many ways the Holy Spirit is working through us and the larger church to bring love and care to communities of people who are suffering. Pentecost often seems to be a time that slips by with ecstatic but brief fanfare. We are hoping to lean into the season of Pentecost this year as a time in which we turn our attention to the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Yours in Pentecost power,

Pastor Johan Dodge
Leisure World Community Church

June 22, 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, today I will be tempted to wander away from your way of love. By your Spirit, guide me in the ways you want me to grow. I may have become discouraged by my own limitations or by the interactions I have with others. Direct my thoughts and words and actions so that they reflect your love, not only for me but also for those around me. Remind me today and everyday that, in Jesus, I belong to you. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Creator of day and night, as shadows lengthen let me gather my thoughts and feelings before you. Thank you for your presence today. Watch over me through the night. Be with those who are wakeful, either because they are doing their work, caring for others, or because of trouble that will not let them rest. Grant to all your peace, and the promise of your kin-dom assuredly as the morning light. In this hope, let all of your creation trust, giving thanks and praise tonight, tomorrow, and forever, Amen.