

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

August 10, 2025
9th Sunday After Pentecost

Rev. Johan Dodge

**Belief
Cannot
be Trusted**



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.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a final chord and a fermata over the word 'Amen'.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Virginia Olejnik

O God of promise, creator of the cosmos, you are the first light breaking through the void, and the final light we shall eternally enjoy. Keep our heart ever vigilant as we wait to welcome you, that you would find us clothed in love, dressed for action, and ready to receive you. Amen

HYMN: "For All the Saints"

Unis.

1. For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest,
2. O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine
3. From Earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast,

Unis.

Who Thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, Thy
We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet
Through gates of pearl streams in the count - less host; They

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The hymn is written for a unison voice part. It begins with a treble staff and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece concludes with a final chord and a fermata over the word 'They'.

name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er__ blest —
all are to one in Thee, for all__ are__ Thine —
sing to Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly__ Ghost:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

God of blessing, you fling the stars into the heavens and show us more blessings than we can count. You give us treasure that cannot be destroyed. You promise us a feast and peace without end.

We pray for your world, the wounded and scarred: heal earth's body and lead us to care.

We pray for your church, divided and at odds with one another over the scope of your love: unite us in mission, and teach us to follow your Way. We pray for the addicted: help us to serve them and walk with them in love.

We pray for those who have no hope, especially when those people are ourselves: may your Holy Spirit fall fresh upon us all to give us encouragement to bring your love into the places of darkness.

We pray for the greedy: may they see the emptiness they are enslaved to.

We pray for the poor: may we see them as ourselves and work to sustain them and bring them hope.

We pray for all those whose burdens we carry in our hearts, and offer them up to you: heal them, comfort them, guide them and make them whole.

Now increase our love, and amplify our hope, that by the power of your Spirit, we might serve you and greet you in the face of the stranger and foe.
Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

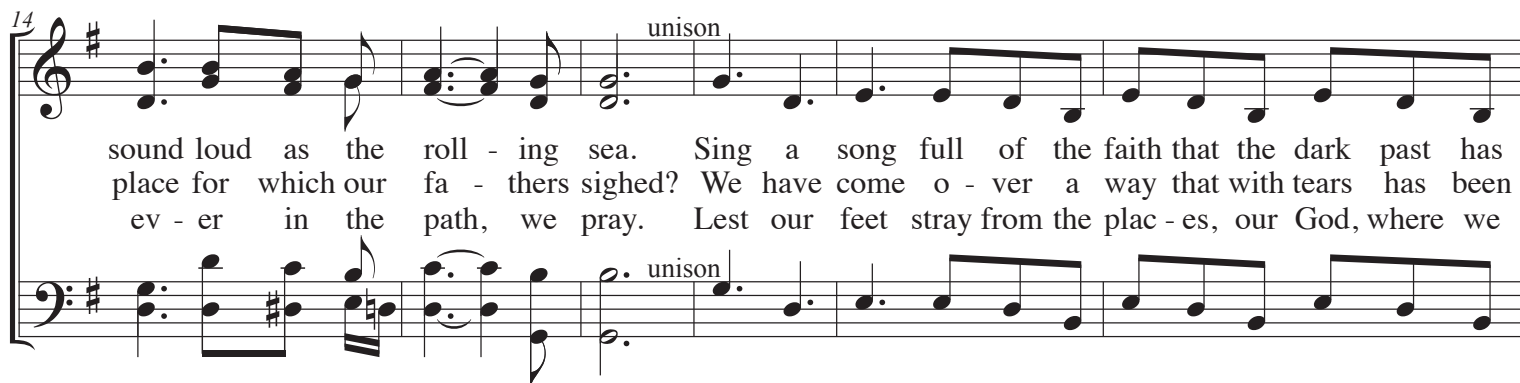
HYMN: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"



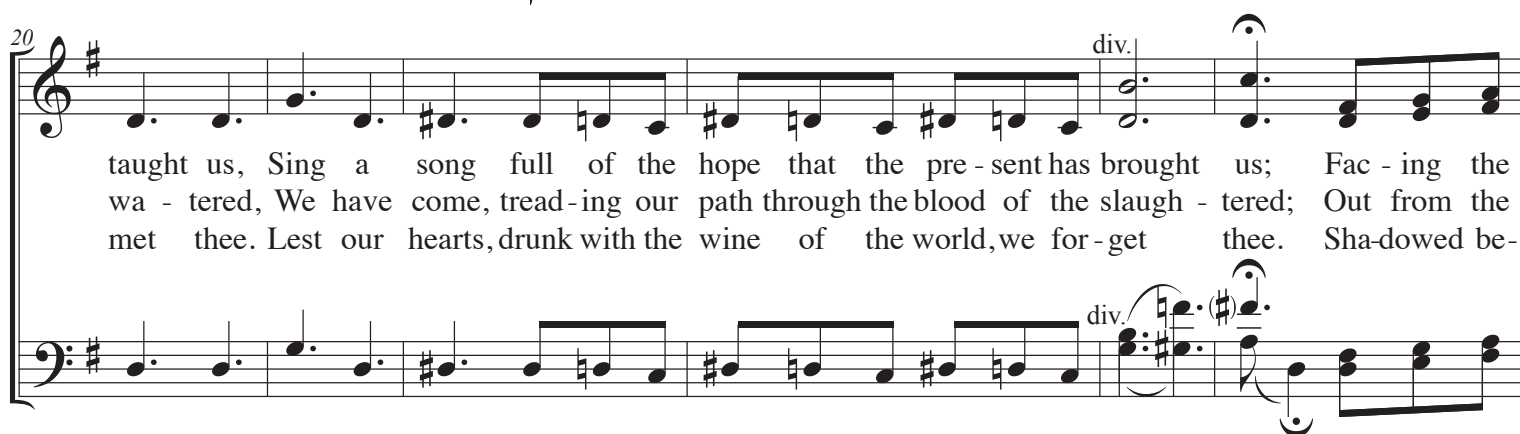
Lift ev-'ry voice and sing, 'til Earth and Heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of
Ston-y the road we trod, bit - ter the chast-'ning rod, Felt in the days when hope un -
God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far



lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise, high as the list - 'ning skies, Let it re -
born had died; Yet with a stead - y beat, havenot our wea - ry__ feet, Come to the
on__ the way; Thou who hast by thy might, led us in - to the__ light, Keep us for -



sound loud as the roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
place for which our fa - thers sighed? We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
ev - er in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we



taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the pre - sent has brought us; Fac - ing the
wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered; Out from the
met thee. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee. Sha-dowed be -

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ris - ing sun; of our new day be-gun, Let us march on 'til vic - to - ry — is won.
 gloom - y past, 'til now we stand at last, Where the white gleam of our bright star — is cast.
 neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Virginia Olejnik

God of Hope, open our eyes to your presence among us that we may hear your word with clarity and a sureness of hope, as we follow you in your Way of Loving Kindness. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Virginia Olejnik

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

The Meaning of Faith

¹¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

The Faith of Abraham

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."
¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.
¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 12:32-40

³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

MESSAGE: “Belief Cannot Be Trusted” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

When we understand the end of the world, the kingdom of God as here rather than coming at some future time, and when we understand that Jesus coming in final glory isn’t some other being, but rather is us as the body of Christ, what does it mean for us to be ready for action? How do you accept and live into the command of Jesus to be about the action of the kingdom, that we call the kin-dom — the realm of justice and compassion in the world around us?

REFLECTION: “I Believe” — John Fluker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Virginia Olejnik

Following the Way of Jesus, and with love for all of God’s creation, let us bring our gifts to God. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “How Beautiful” — Jennifer Rudy, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Virginia Olejnik

Generous God, you pour out blessings upon us and cover us with gifts of love. Accept these offerings for the sake of your creation, that the earth may proclaim your mercy and embody your grace. In Jesus’ name we ask it. 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

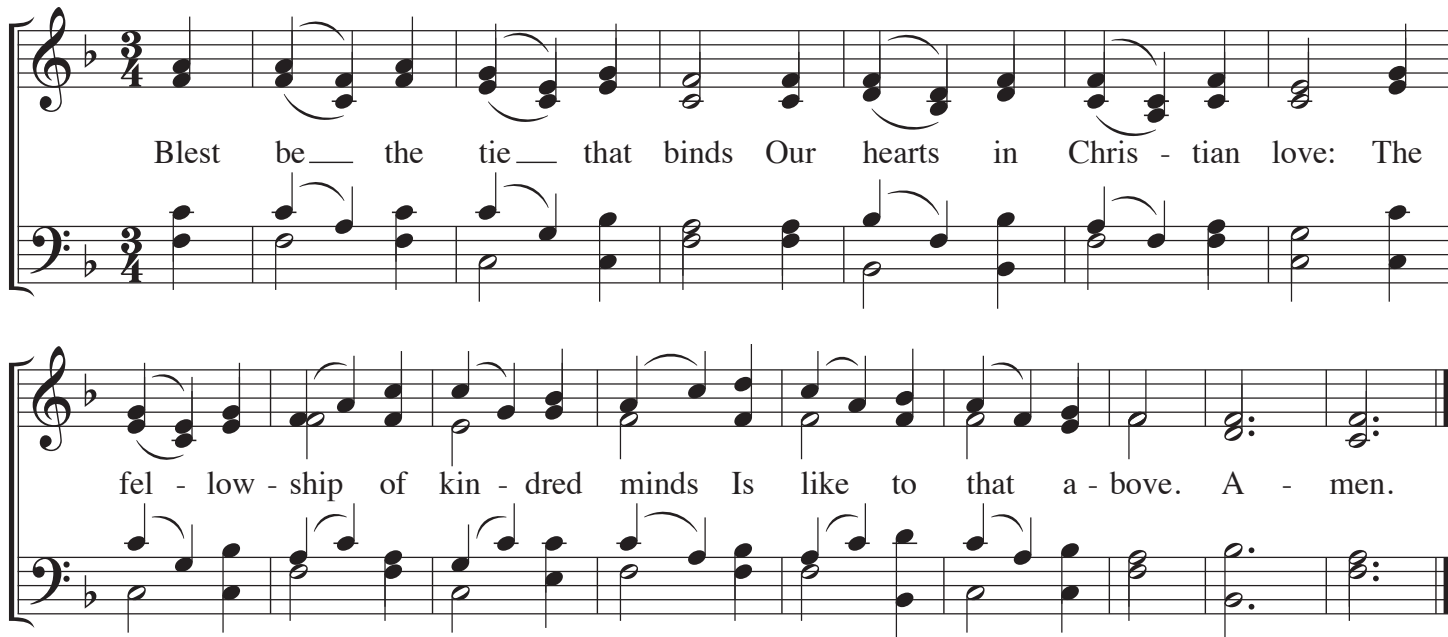
take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly; _____

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

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

My siblings, be dressed for action and ready to serve, for it is God's good pleasure to have given you the kin-dom, an unfailing treasure and eternal blessing. May our hands, our feet, our smiles, and God's Way of Love bring the Kin-dom that is to come. **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*
John Fluker, *Pianist*
Jim Orr, *Technology*

Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Dir.*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

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

"For All the Saints"
Music by Ralph Vaughn Williams,
Words by William Walsham How

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"
Music by John Rosamond Johnson
Words by James Weldon Johnson

"I Believe"
Words & Music by Ervin Drake, Irvin Graham,
Jimmy Shirl and Al Stillman
Piano Arrangement by John Fluker

"How Beautiful"
Music & Words by Twila Paris; Arranged by
Lloyd Larson; © 1990 Ariose Music and
Mountain Spring Music

"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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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 are provided by Mara Williams. Fellowship refreshments are provided by Jeanette Williams. 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, August 14th, 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!

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

August 10, 2025



GROW PRAY STUDY

Notes from the Service

My Prayers this week:

Prayer Journal

Use this prayer in your time with God each day.

Household Prayer: Morning

On this new day, O God, make me watchful for where I may be your love in the world; keep me grounded in your love that I may follow in your way in all things; and hold me in your grace, as I am sure to stumble. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Hear me at the end of this day, O God, help me to entrust my cares to you. Grant me grace for my failings and rest for my weary soul, that I may be strengthened to do your will and share your love when a new day dawns. Amen.