



**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 17, 2025
10th Sunday After Pentecost

Present Time

Rev. Johan Dodge



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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.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY — Phyllis Spencer

God of Peace, your call, at times, appears to divide us from one another. Help us overcome our fears and respond in courage. Give us faith to build the unity that is beyond our sight. Give us eyes to recognize the signs before us. We ask this in the confidence of children following the way of Jesus. Amen.

HYMN: "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

1. I sing a song of the saints of God, pa - tient and brave and
2. They loved our God so dear, so dear, and God's love made them
3. They lived not on - ly in a ges past; there are hun - dreds of thou - sands

true, strong; still. who toiled and fought and lived and died for our
The world is what was right bright for Je - sus' joy - ous sake the
who

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God, whom they loved and knew. And one was a doc - tor, and
 whole of their good and lives long. And one was a sol - dier, and
 love to do Je - sus' will. You can meet them in school, on the

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one was a queen, and one was a shep - herd - ess on the green; they were
 one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce the wild beast; and there's
 street, in the store, in church, by the sea, in the house next door; they are

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all of them saints of God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 not an - y rea - son, no, not the least, why I should-n't be one too.
 saints of God, wheth - er rich or poor, and I mean to be one too.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

God of Peace, you have blessed us with the inheritance of grace that we might live as people of justice, loving kindness, and peace. Stir in us your power, and fill us with divine love strong and true, that we may be always eager to follow the way of Jesus that leads to your promised reign of peace. Amen.

We pray for all peoples of faith. May discord among religions and denominations yield to your greater teaching of love and may we enjoy a common commitment to building your kin-dom around us.

We pray for the world. Prod us to engage in acts of mission and service to one another, and to creation as a whole, that honor your love for us.

We pray for those who hold authority in government. Enable policymakers to enact justice, transforming places of violence and conflict into havens of sanctuary and peace.

We pray for all those in our community who are suffering the burden of illness, distress, or any kind of pain.

We remember those who have finished their course in faith and joined the great cloud of witnesses.

Loving ever-present God, give us clarity of vision, and make us ready to serve you in the faces of those we encounter in the days ahead. We seek this unity in the name of Jesus who taught us the way of love. **Amen.**

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Abide with Me"

1. A - bid with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide;
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3. I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour.
4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid.
Earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way;
What but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and Earth's vain shad - ows flee;

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Help of the help - less, O
 O Thou who chang - est not,
 Through clouds or sun my God,
 I tri - umph still, if thou
 in life, in death, O God,

a - bide with me.

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Phyllis Spencer

God of wisdom, we eagerly seek your guidance in our lives and in the world. By your Spirit, speak your word to us, and give us your grace to recognize the abundant signs of your care for us, so that we might be freed to act in the world with courage and abandon. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Phyllis Spencer

Luke 12:49-56

⁴⁹ “I came to cast fire upon the earth. How I wish that it was already ablaze!
⁵⁰ I have a baptism I must experience. How I am distressed until it’s completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, I have come instead to bring division. ⁵² From now on, a household of five will be divided—three against two and two against three. ⁵³ Father will square off against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” ⁵⁴ Jesus also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud forming in the west, you immediately say, ‘It’s going to rain.’ And indeed it does. ⁵⁵ And when a south wind blows, you say, ‘A heat wave is coming.’ And it does. ⁵⁶ Hypocrites! You know how to interpret conditions on earth and in the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret the present time?

MESSAGE: “Present Time” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

The Present Time is meant to look different than it does. The present time is meant to be more loving; it is meant to more closely resemble the way of Jesus. What does it mean for us that Jesus uses fire which can be so destructive as the metaphor for transformation? How does his teaching on divisions within families inform your own relationships? Have you been following the way of Jesus or have those whom you have been divided from? What might you do to reset and restore relationships? What might you do to bring about the kin-dom of God?

REFLECTION: “Amazing Grace” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Phyllis Spencer

Mindful of the abundance we have received in Christ, we offer ourselves and our gifts to the world. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “You Are My All in All” — Jennifer Rudy, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Phyllis Spencer

We trust O God, in your provision and loving kindness. Use these gifts and our lives that we might bear your fruit with praise and thanksgiving. We ask this in the confidence of your guidance and love. **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;_____

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

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

God is present to us, calling us to attend to our lives and our world. Confident in God's provision and direction we go forth inspired, seeking reconciliation in places of division, honoring the light of those on the margins, and filled with gratitude for God's promises.

May the God of creation and restoration give you the confidence in the daily tasks set before you. The God of love and compassion, assure you of your identity as a child of God. May the Holy Spirit's guidance inspire and mold you in the way of Love and may the blessing of God Creator and Sustainer, be with you and remain with you always. **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

"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"
Music by John H. Hopkins, Jr.,
Words by Lesbia Scott

"You Are My All in All"
Music & Words by Dennis Jernigan; Arranged
by Lloyd Larson; © 1994 Shepherd's Heart
Music, Inc.; © 2009 Hope Publishing
Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188

"Abide with Me"
Tune: *EVENTIDE* by William H. Monk,
written for text by Henry Francis Lyte

"Amazing Grace"
Tune: *NEW BRITAIN*, attr. to James Carrell
Words by John Newton, 1772; Public Domain
Piano Arrangement by Fred Bock

"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
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PRAYER REQUESTS

new Sandy Walker – While visiting San Luis Obispo, Sandy took a spill and broke her pelvis in two places. After a short stay in hospital, she was transferred to Manor Care in Fountain Valley where she is expecting to stay for about two weeks. Prayers for a speedy, easy recovery, and excellent medical care.

new Nancy Westcott – Chance Cates is the boyfriend of Nancy's granddaughter, Lexi. Chance was attacked and bitten in the face by a dog. Getting home late after an intense internship, he was walking his dog in his neighborhood. Another dog attacked Chance and his dog. Lexi rushed him to the ER, where he received 12 stitches around his left eye, as well as rabies and tetanus shots. Prayers of gratitude that the eye itself was not injured. Prayers for quick healing and recovery.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and **FELLOWSHIP**: Today's flowers are anonymously provided. Fellowship refreshments are provided by Sandy Cardot. 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.

TEXAS FLOOD RELIEF: Our Special Offering last Sunday for Flood Relief in Texas raised \$175 which was donated to UMCOR and will help fund efforts to bring much-needed resources to areas of Texas which were devastated by recent flooding. ***Thank you to all who contributed!***

COFFEE WITH PASTOR: Thursday, August 21st, 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.*

PEACE LOVE HOPE JOY
KINDNESS FORGIVENESS
COMPASSION EMPATHY

August 17, 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

God of creation, I greet this day sustained in your love for me and all of your very good creation. Help me to lay aside any burden or distraction that might prevent me from fully living into your kin-dom promise this day. Grant me perseverance and joy so that I may come to the end of the day confident that in your guiding presence I have transformed the world a little more into your kin-dom of love. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

God of hope, confirm for me at the close of this day the fulfillment of your promise of provision. Release my concerns for things done poorly and things left undone. Give me your peace so that I may sleep this night and rise refreshed to serve you and your creation with openness and love. Amen.