

**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 31, 2025

Season of Creation – 1st Sunday

Humility & Hospitality

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

God calls us to service,

rather than honor.

God calls us to love the unknown,

rather than the familiar.

We come to this time of worship,

**to learn the way of Jesus and the love of God who is present
with us in our ups and our downs.**

HYMN: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

For the beau - ty of the Earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
For the joy of hu - man love, spouse, and sib - ling, pa - rent, child,
For thy church, that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
For thy - self, best Gift Di - vine, to the world so free - ly giv'n,

5

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies;
 hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun, and moon, and stars of light;
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight;
 friends on Earth and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild;
 of - fer - ing up on ev - 'ry shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love;
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on Earth, and joy in Heav'n:

9 **Refrain**

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Loving God, you are worthy of dedicating our lives to your way of love. Open our eyes to see the world as you see it. Give us the wisdom to witness to your presence in all people. Transform us in love, call us to love with a full heart, and to share your promises with all people.

We offer our prayers for the universal church. May our words and actions bring honor to your name and teach us true humility.

Ever-present God, you call us to follow the way of Jesus, even when it challenges our relationships and the values of our culture. Help us to release our fears, nurture us in your ways and sustain us as we seek your way of love.

We offer our prayers for those who suffer from sickness of mind, body, or spirit and all those who care for them.

Ever-present God, you call us to follow the way of Jesus, even when it challenges our relationships and the values of our culture. Help us to release our fears, nurture us in your ways and sustain us as we seek your way of love.

We pray for those who have finished their course in faith and for those whose life situations have meant moving away from us here.

Ever-present God, you call us to follow the way of Jesus, even when it challenges our relationships and the values of our culture. Help us to release our fears, nurture us in your ways and sustain us as we seek your way of love.

Ever-present God, help us to release our fears, nurture us in your ways, and sustain us as we seek your way of peace. We ask this through Jesus who taught us your way of love. **Amen.**

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Humble Thyself in the Sight of God"

REFRAIN

5



Hum-ble thy - self in the sight of God. Hum-ble thy - self in the sight of

8



God. and God will lift you up, high-er and high - er, and
and God will lift you up, high-er and high - er, and

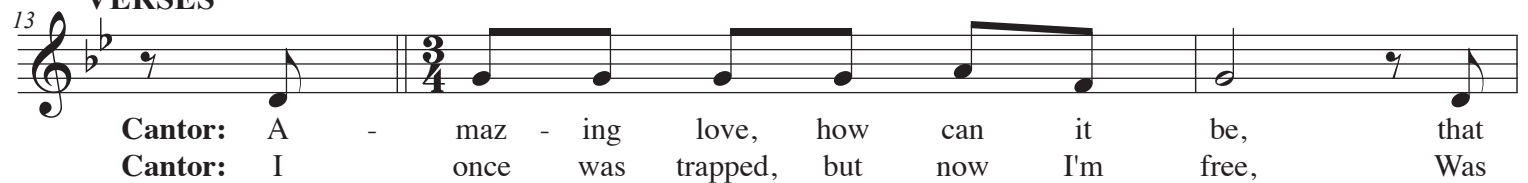
11



God will lift you up.
and God will lift you up.

VERSES

13



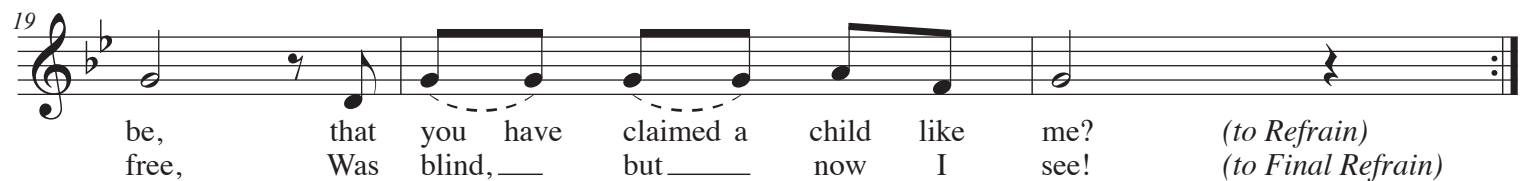
Cantor: A - maz - ing love, how can it be, that
Cantor: I once was trapped, but now I'm free, Was

16



you have claimed a child like me? **ALL:** A - maz - ing love, how can it
blind, but now I see! **ALL:** I once was trapped, but now I'm

19



be, that you have claimed a child like me? (to Refrain)
free, Was blind, but now I see! (to Final Refrain)

FINAL REFRAIN

22



Hum-ble thy - self in the sight of God. Hum-ble thy - self in the sight of

25

God. and God will lift you up, high-er and high - er, and
and God will lift you up, high-er and high - er, and

28

God and God will lift you up. and LOVE will lift you up.
and God will lift you up. and LOVE will lift you up.

31

up, high-er and high - er, and LOVE will lift you up.
up, high-er and high - er, and and LOVE will lift you up.

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Virginia Olejnik

God of wisdom, open us to the work of your Spirit, that we may hear and faithfully respond to your holy word. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Virginia Olejnik

Luke 14:1, 7-14

14:1 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

14:7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." ¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

MESSAGE: “Humility and Hospitality” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Where have you seen relationships redefined by the love of God? Who have you come to claim as a family member, against all odds? Who do you still label as useless? What would it take for you to see that person as a sibling in Christ?

REFLECTION: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Virginia Olejnik

God gives us more than we can ever earn and sustains us in ways we cannot imagine. With a spirit of generosity, let us freely offer ourselves and our gifts to the world.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Shout to the Lord” — Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Virginia Olejnik

God of Grace, we give thanks for your faithfulness to us, we give thanks for your hope in us, we rejoice in the knowledge of your unending love. In the light of your mercy, and confident in your love, we dedicate these offerings, and ourselves, to you. Amen.

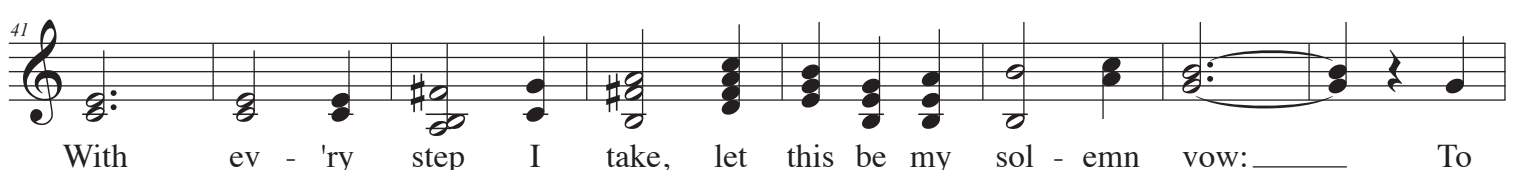
[please stand as you are able]

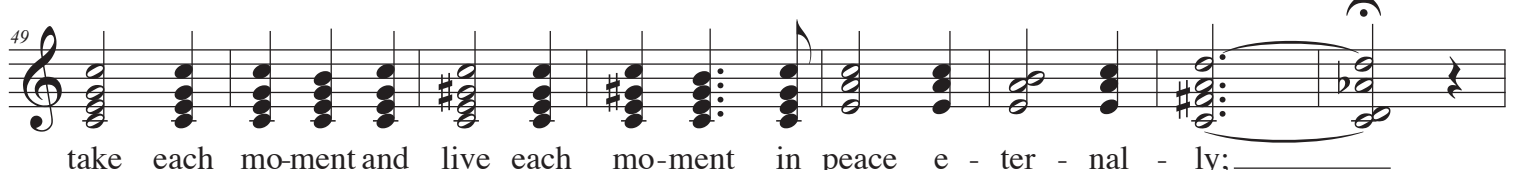
HYMN: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me. _____' (Staff 1), 'Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be. _____' (Staff 2), '____ With God, our Cre - a - tor, _____ we are fam - i - ly. _____' (Staff 3), and 'Let us walk with each oth - er _____ in per - fect har - mo - ny. _____' (Staff 4). The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests and ties. There are also some complex chords and accidentals (sharps and flats) throughout the piece.

33

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

41

 With ev - 'ry step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow: _____ To

49

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

57

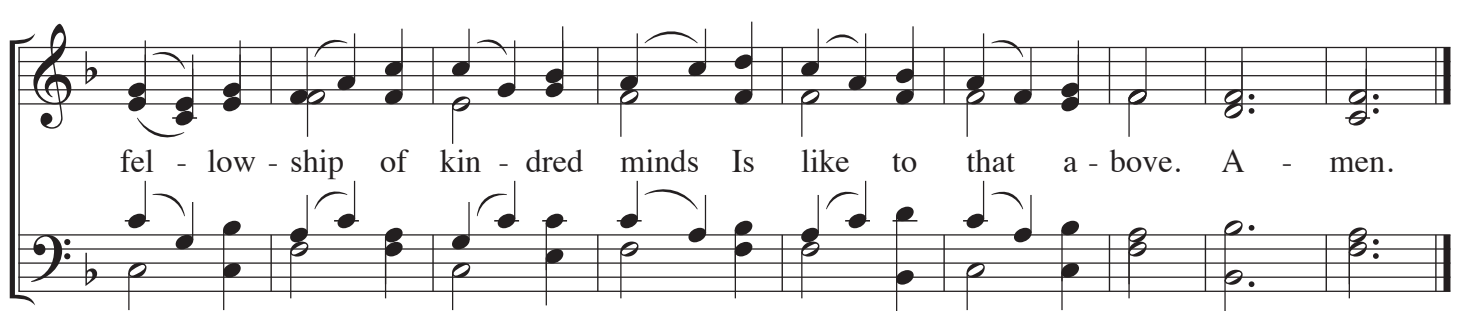
 Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me. _____

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

May the artist who crafted you continue to shape your heart, may the Christ who commissioned you, charge you with purpose, may the Spirit that stirs you, help you along the way, that you may honor your creator and be a blessing to creation. **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.*
 Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

Jennifer Rudy, *Soprano*
 John Fluker, *Pianist*
 Jim Orr, *Technology*

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

"For the Beauty of the Earth"
Music by Conrad Kocher, *Arr. by W.H. Monk*,
Words by Folliot S. Pierpoint

"Humble Thyself in the Sight of God"
Music and Words by Bob Hudson,
Based on 1 Peter 5:6, New Words by Rev.
Johan Dodge, Vocal Arr. David Albulario

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"
Music by Lowell Mason
Piano arrangement by Fred Bock

"Shout to the Lord"
Music and Words by Darlene Zschech,
Setting 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. 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 **Joyce Reed** – Today is Joyce's last day at Worship before she makes her way to Oregon, and her new home. All of us at LWCC send our love and gratitude for Joyce's many years as dedicated servant to this community. Godspeed and blessings to Joyce!

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and **FELLOWSHIP**: Today's flowers are provided by all of us in honor of **Joyce Reed** and her more than 30 years of service to our church. We wish you blessings in your new home and send you off with great love, Joyce! Fellowship refreshments are provided by Carol Graves. See the sign-up charts to provide refreshments or cover the cost of altar flowers for future services. Altar flowers are \$35. Please check with Phyllis, Jeanette, or Virginia to coordinate arrangements.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR: "Coffee with Pastor," will be on hiatus for the next two weeks while Pastor Johan is away for Reading Week, and will resume on Thursday, September 18th.

VISITING PASTOR LISA: Next Sunday we welcome Pastor Lisa Williams who will lead us in Worship on Sunday, September 7, 2025 at our regular service. Her message is entitled, *"Where Does My Help Come From?"*

LW KOREAN COMMUNITY CHURCH: Our wonderful friends at LW Korean Community Church invite us all to join their annual barbecue picnic at Clubhouse 1 on Sunday, September 7, 2025, at 11:30 AM, immediately following our regular Sunday Worship.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: Our Sunday Worship on October 5, 2025, will take place **outside** on the front patio of the church. Observing the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, who had a deep love and respect for animals, the service will include a ceremony for "The Blessing of the Animals." **ALL Leisure World residents are invited to bring their well-behaved pets for a blessing.** We ask that dogs be leashed according to LW rules. Please use good judgment regarding the use of kennels and cages. You are responsible for the behavior of your pets.

NEED A BIBLE or DEVOTIONAL?: Free Bibles on the small bookshelf in the narthex. Free Devotional Books are just outside the Library, across from the Women's restroom. *Help yourself.*

RECENT LWCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

August 3rd: 32 | August 10th: 37 | August 17th: 40 | August 24th: 34

August 31, 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

Learning to follow Jesus is the way of humility and hospitality. So often, the Prayer of Jesus is a prayer of recitation and we don't give it a second thought. This week, spend some time with the Prayer of Jesus and consider how you are living the prayer in your daily life. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

"The Prayer of Jesus"

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.