

**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

**September 14, 2025**

*Season of Creation – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday*

# Restoration is Hard Where?

**Rev. Johan Dodge**

 **COMMUNITY  
CHURCH** LEISURE  
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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.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY — Lois Dimos**

*"The Prayer of Jesus" — Season of Creation*

**Holy One, our only Home,  
hallowed be your name.**

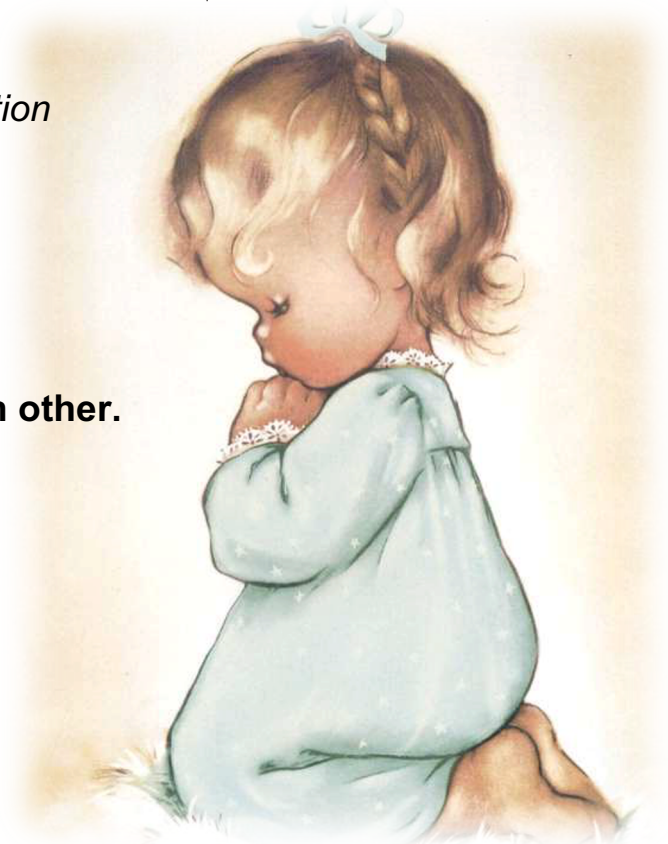
**May your day dawn,  
your will be done,  
here as in heaven.**

**Feed us today,  
and forgive us as we forgive each other.**

**Do not forsake us at the test,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the glory, the power,  
and the mercy are yours,  
now and for ever.**

**Amen.**



# HYMN: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

1. Come, thou fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy  
 2. Here I raise mine Eb-e-ne-zer; hith-er by thy help I'm  
 3. O to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I will al-ways

grace; streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing call for  
 come; and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly  
 be! Let thy good-ness, like a fet-ter, bind my

songs of loud-est praise. Teach me some me-lo-dious  
 to ar-rive at home. Je-sus sought me when a  
 wan-d'ring heart to thee. Prone to wan-der, Lord, I

son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove. Praise the  
 stran-ger, wan-d'ring from the fold of God; and to  
 feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my

mount! I'm fixed up-on it, mount of thy re-deem-ing love.  
 res-cue me from dan-ger, fill the heav'ns with sweet-est laud.  
 heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy home a-bove.

*[please be seated]*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** — Rev. Johan Dodge

*"Thanksgiving for the Earth" from the Iona Abbey*

Remember the fruits of the earth,  
for sowing and for harvest.  
Remember the dew of the air.  
Remember the down coming of the rains  
and the waters and the rivers.  
Remember the plants and the blooms of every year.  
Remember the safety of humans and of animals  
and of me, your sinful servant.  
For the rain, the wind of the sky, seed, plants,  
the fruit of the trees and also the vineyards,  
and for every tree in the entire world,

**We are grateful.**

For the Holy Trinity who brings us to perfection  
in safety and peace, forgives us our sins, brings  
us up according to their measure that we may  
grow and prosper through your grace, who  
makes the face of the earth to rejoice, waters her  
furrows, lets her grain be abundantly multiplied  
and makes ready her seed-time and harvest,

**We give You thanks.**

*[please stand as you are able]*

**HYMN: "Peace Is Flowing Like a River"**

Peace is flow - ing like a ri - ver, flow - ing  
Love is flow - ing like a riv - er, flow - ing  
Heal - ing's flow - ing like a ri - ver, flow - ing  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -  
Peace is flow - ing like a riv - er, flow - ing

6  
out of you and me, \_\_\_\_\_ Flow - ing out in - to the de -  
out of you and me, \_\_\_\_\_ Flow - ing out in - to the de -  
out of you and me, \_\_\_\_\_ Flow - ing out in - to the de -  
lu ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -  
our of you and me, \_\_\_\_\_ Flow - ing out in - to the de -

4

12

sert, set - ting all the cap - tives free. \_\_\_\_\_  
 sert, set - ting all the cap - tives free. \_\_\_\_\_  
 ia, Al - le - lu - ia Al le lu - ia. \_\_\_\_\_  
 sert, set - ting all God's peo - ple free. \_\_\_\_\_

*[please be seated]*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Lois Dimos

Ever-present God, you spoke order into chaos and brought forth creation as we know it. Speak now to our hearts that the ancient words might live by the power of your Holy Spirit and that we might be shaped into your children, eager to bring your way of love into the world and en flesh your preferred future. We pray this in the name of Jesus who leads us into life. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE — Lois Dimos

### Luke 15:1-10

#### *The Parable of the Lost Sheep*

<sup>15:1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.

<sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable:

<sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’

<sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

#### *The Parable of the Lost Coin*

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

**MESSAGE:** “Restoration is Hard Where?” — Rev. Johan Dodge

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

The parables this week speak of people's holding being restored but over the last several weeks, we have been looking at the teaching of Jesus, indeed, The Way of Jesus as giving up our holdings. What does restoration mean in light of these contrasts? How are we to be made whole? What do you feel is currently missing, and who might you walk with to help you find it?

**REFLECTION:** "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Lois Dimos

Time and again, God clears a path for us to seek the way of life, to do good, to become a refuge for the poor. That path lies before us. With joy, let us offer our gifts and our lives in trust.

*[Ushers, please come forward]*

**OFFERTORY:** "I Will Be Here" — Jennifer Rudy, *soprano*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Lois Dimos

**Loving God, receive these gifts as you receive our lives. Gather our false starts and uncertain efforts, our generosity and our reluctance. Enliven us with your breath and make your purposes known that our lives might participate in the glory of your creation. In the name of our guide and counselor, Jesus we pray. Amen.**

*[please stand as you are able]*

## HYMN: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

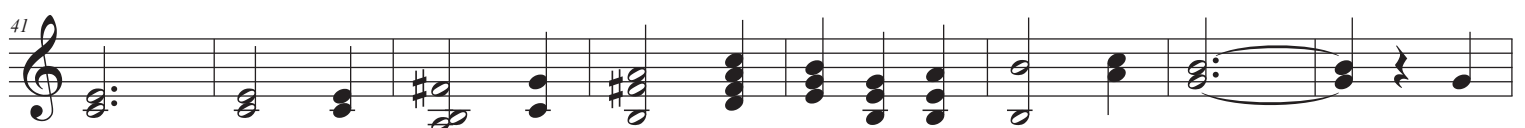
Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me.\_\_\_\_\_

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

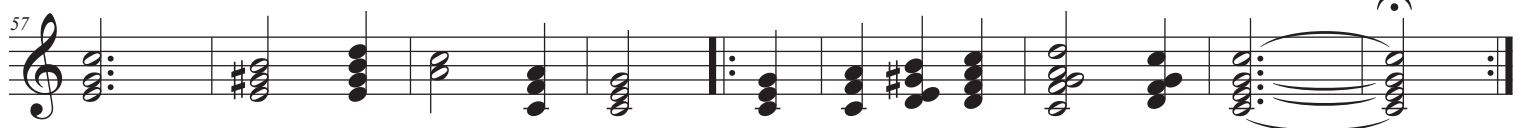
With God, our Cre - a - tor,\_\_\_\_\_ we are fam - i - ly.\_\_\_\_\_

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

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 - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly; \_\_\_\_\_

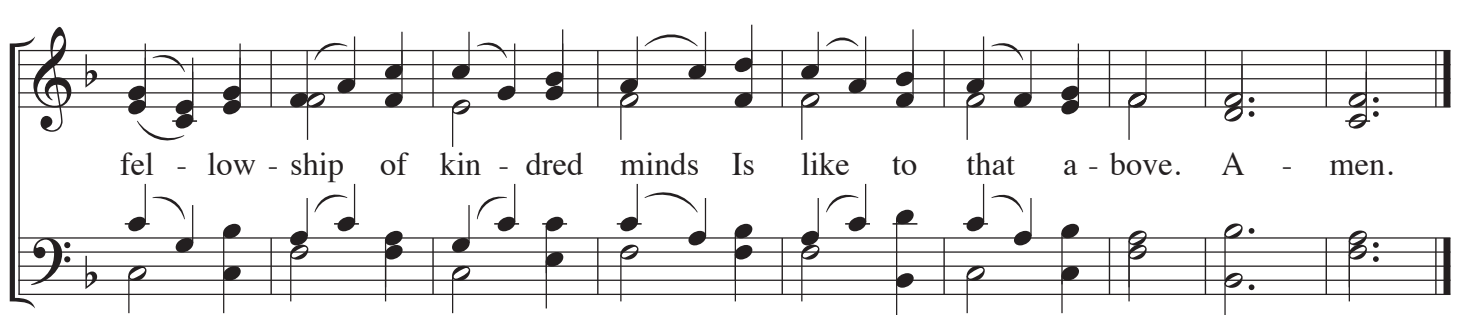
57  
  
 Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me. \_\_\_\_\_

### BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

May God who established the dance of creation,  
 Who marveled at the lilies of the field,  
 Who transforms chaos to order,  
 Lead us to transform our lives and the Church  
 To listen to the voice of all creatures  
 That reflect God's glory in 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: Jennifer Rudy, *Soprano*  
 Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

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

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

**"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**  
Tune: *NETTLETON* by John Wyeth  
Words by Robert Robinson

**"Peace Is Flowing Like a River"**  
Traditional Melody adapted by Carey  
Landry; Words based on *Psalm 107*;  
© 1975, 1979, OCP

**"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"**  
Music by Thomas J. Williams;  
Piano Arrangement by Melody Bober

**"I Will Be Here"**  
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**  
14000 Church Pl, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562-431-2503 /// CCLI License No. 187225

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**update** **Sandy Walker** – Sandy remains in rehabilitation at Fountain Valley Post Acute Care. She still has a way to go, but she is improving every day. She has an appointment with her doctor next week and hopefully they let her start putting more weight on her left side.

## NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**FLOWERS** and **FELLOWSHIP**: Today's flowers and Fellowship refreshments are provided by Jim & Lois Dimos. 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," resumes this week on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. Join Pastor Johan and other members of our congregation for a relaxed time to discuss any questions you may have, current events, or just to get something off your chest. Come share coffee and conversation.

**GERRI SEATON**: We received a lovely note this week from our friend Gerri Seaton: *"I hope you are all well! I attend our much smaller chapel here at Rowntree Gardens, but I miss my beautiful Community Church every Sunday. Thanks to Jeanette Williams for her visits every month – she is a delight."*

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE**: Jim & Lois Dimos will celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with a renewal of their vows and a reception dinner on Saturday, October 25, 2025, 4-6 pm. ALL are welcome!

**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 17<sup>th</sup>: 40 | August 24<sup>th</sup>: 34 | August 31<sup>st</sup>: 39 | September 7: 33



**GROW**  
**PRAY**  
**STUDY**

Notes from the Service

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My Prayers this week:

# Prayer Journal

Use this prayer in your time with God each day.

## Household Prayer: Morning

Ever-present God, as the day begins and the light increases, let me drink deeply of your love. As the day unfolds and my heart inevitably strays from you, call me back to this moment. May I attune to your presence with me and overcome my mind and follow your heart.

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

## Household Prayer: Evening

As darkness falls, as I yield to sleep, I turn to you in my dreams. Speak to me as I slumber that which I cannot or will not hear when my ego has a hold of my mind. Call me in ways beyond my knowing that I might find strength to feed your people, that I might live, again to call your name, that I might know the joy of every stranger headed home. Amen.