

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 21, 2025

Season of Creation – 4th Sunday



**COMMUNITY
CHURCH LEISURE
WORLD**

Rev. Johan Dodge

**Covenant,
Kindom,
& Commonwealth**

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.

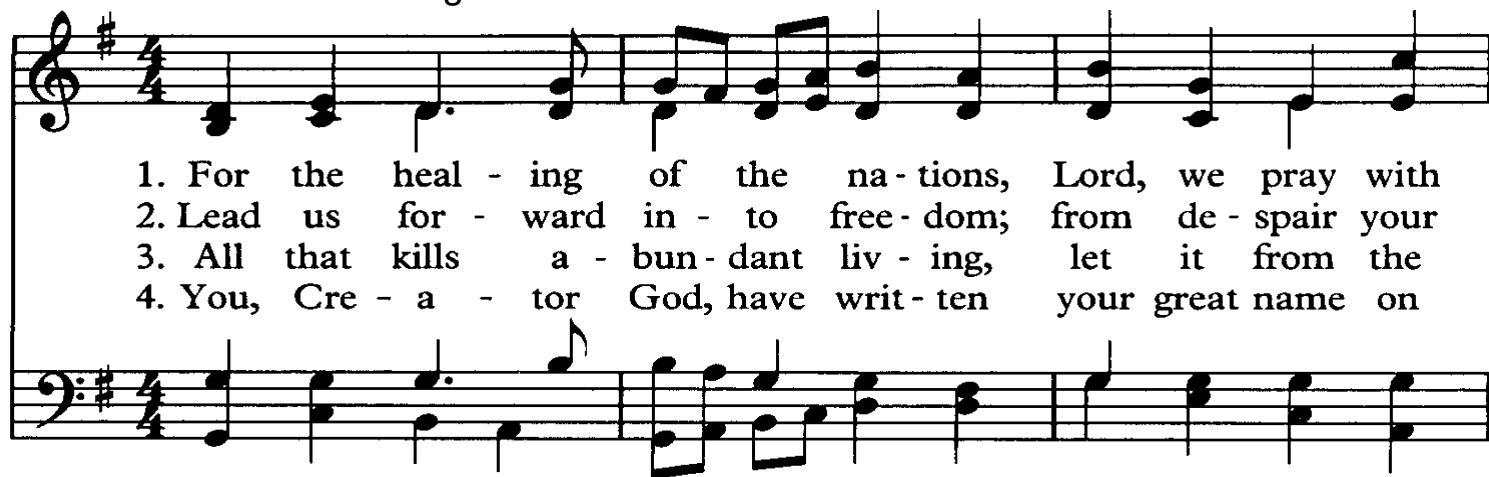
PRAYER OF THE DAY, by Rev. Kelby Werner — Virginia Olejnik

(Note: We resume with the Lord's Prayer after the conclusion of the Season of Creation.)

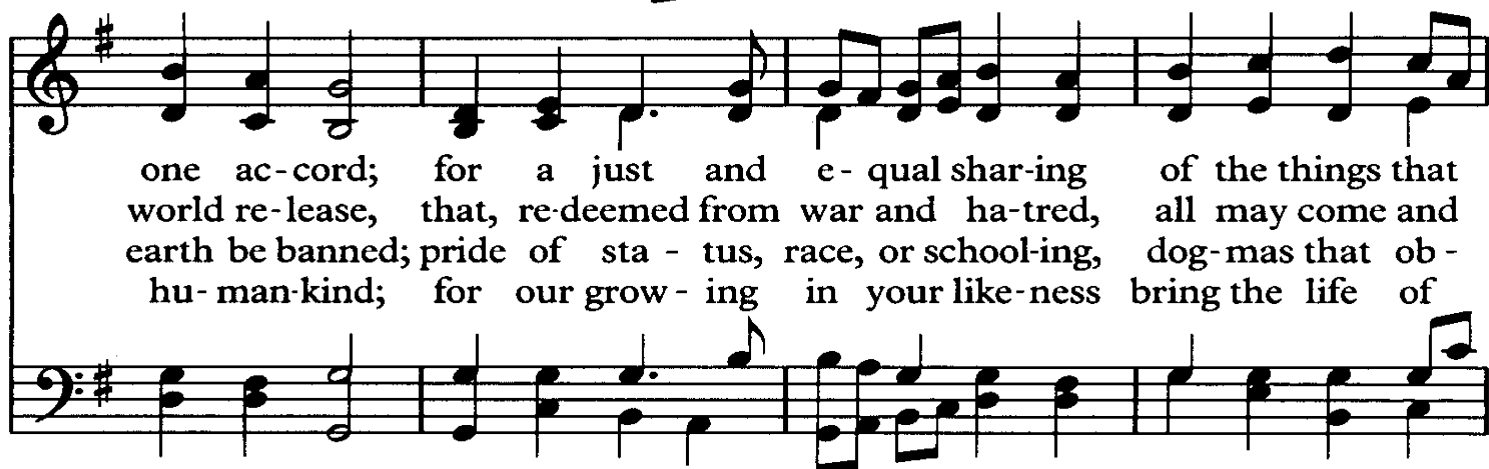
God of creation and community, in your love we have been made equal, beautiful, and diverse. In this time of worship, place into our hearts a spirit of reciprocity, recognizing that as we have been called into relationship with you, so too are we called into relationship with one another. Your sacred calling to use our diverse gifts to support, uplift, and care for one another.

We know that alone we are limited, our resources scarce, but in cooperation with one another, in cooperation with our earth, in cooperation with you who give us life and breath, there is bountiful flourishing to be found. That through cooperation, all creation may live in joyful interdependence fully able to embrace your joyful love and peace. Amen.

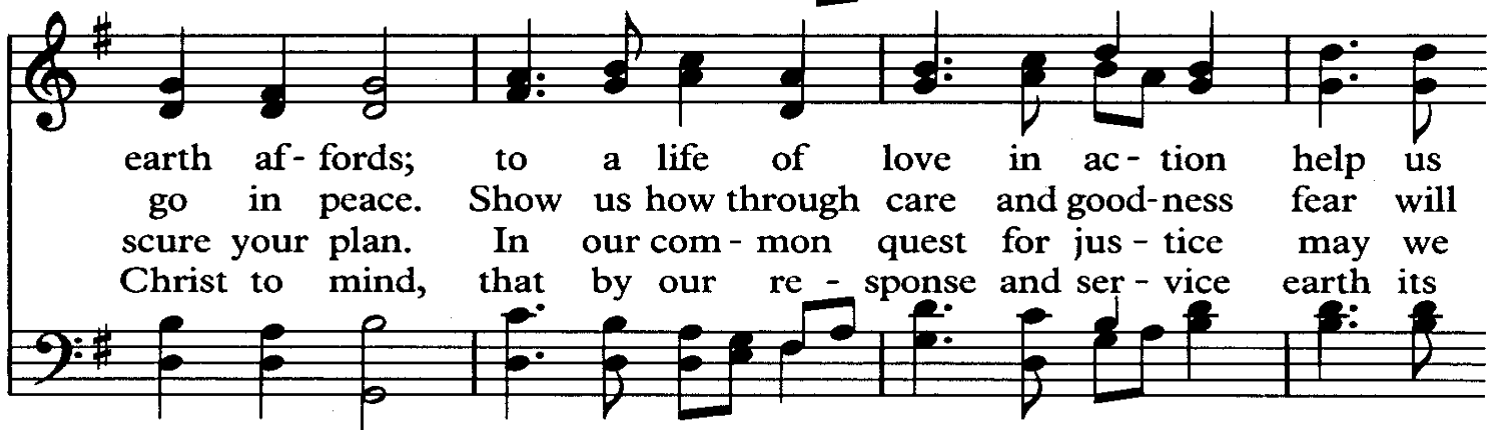
HYMN: "For the Healing of the Nations"



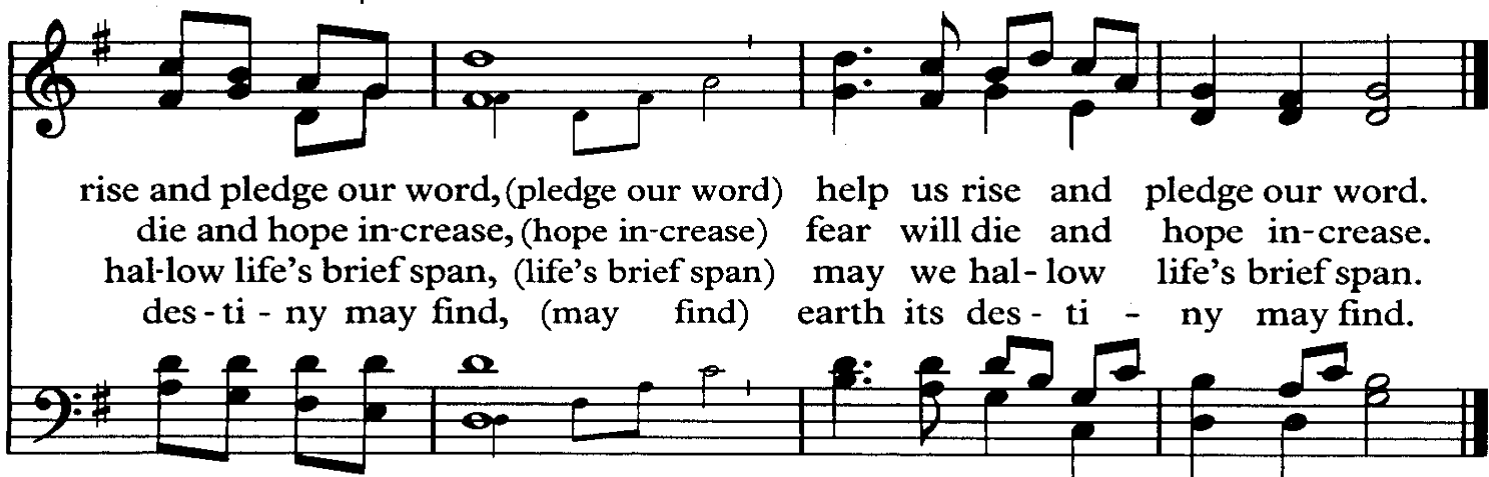
1. For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
 2. Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4. You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on



one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing of the things that
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred, all may come and
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing, dog - mas that ob -
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness bring the life of



earth af - fords; to a life of love in ac - tion help us
 go in peace. Show us how through care and good - ness fear will
 scure your plan. In our com - mon quest for jus - tice may we
 Christ to mind, that by our re - sponse and ser - vice earth its



rise and pledge our word, (pledge our word) help us rise and pledge our word.
 die and hope in - crease, (hope in - crease) fear will die and hope in - crease.
 hal - low life's brief span, (life's brief span) may we hal - low life's brief span.
 des - ti - ny may find, (may find) earth its des - ti - ny may find.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Inspired by the prayers of Rev. Richenda Fairhurst and Rev. Paul Mitchel

Good and Holy God, who strengthens the mountains
and calms the roaring seas!

God, you are among us, you make the earth abundant, providing grain, and
drenching farmland to bless the growth of the food that feeds us.

Yet the world tells us “Compete to thrive.”

We have degraded the land, cut down the forests,
and blasted the mountain for eager gain.

Yet the world tells us “Consume to thrive.”

This destruction cannot last!

Restoring God, you are with us. You bring everything that is good!

You have heard our cry! Our strength flows from you!

By the hummingbird and the bear, the lizard and the firefly,
you crown the year with your goodness.

You who have made life in balance.

The desert, the hills, and the meadowlands burst with dew!
The farmland grows lush.

Hear, and shout, O human! Break out in song! Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: “Make Me A Channel of Your Peace”

6
Make me a chan - nel of your peace. _____ { Where
Where

10
there is hat - red, let me bring your love. _____ Where there is in - ju -
there's des - pair in life, let me bring hope. _____ Where there is dark - ness,

15
ry, your par - don, Lord, _____ and where there's doubt, true faith in
_____ on - ly light, _____ and where there's sad - ness, ev - er

20
1. you. _____ Oh, Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er
joy. _____

25
seek _____ so much to be con - soled as to con - sole, _____

30
to be un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, _____ to be

35
loved as to love with all my soul. _____ Make me a

40
chan - nel of your peace. _____ It is in par - don - ing that we are

45
par - doned, _____ in giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, _____

50
_____ and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life. _____ Oh,

55
Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek _____ so much to be con -

60
soled as to con - sole, _____ to be un - der - stood as to un - der -

65
stand, _____ to be loved as to love with all my soul. _____

70
_____ Make me a chan - nel of your peace. _____ Where

75
there is hat - red, let me bring your love. _____ Where there is in - ju -

80
ry, your par-don, Lord, _____ and where there's doubt, true faith in you. _____ *rit.*

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Virginia Olejnik

God of life, by the power of your Spirit come to us now. Plow our hearts with your living Word until we who are broken become fertile with your love, for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting. In the name of Jesus who showed us the Way. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Virginia Olejnik

Luke 16:1-13

^{16:1} Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

MESSAGE: “Covenant, Kindom, & Commonwealth:

Investing in Relationships, Part 1” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

What are the structures that we are still upholding that are unjust? What does it mean to invest in community instead of in the structures that are unjust? What is the change in the manager’s actions that is praised by the master as shrewd?

REFLECTION: “Shout to the Lord” — John Fluker, *pianist*

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS — Rev. Johan Dodge

May God’s grace be upon the user of this garment of care. Warming, comforting, and embracing. As it is used to gently wrap the body, may the recipient be surrounded with the love knit into it. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Virginia Olejnik

To give is to love. To love is to live. To live is to grow. To grow is to flourish.

May we who follow Jesus enter into Covenant with God’s self-giving love.
May we sing the life and love of Christ in the world this day and beyond.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Change My Heart, O God” / “Be Glorified” — David Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, by Rev. Dr. Brian Smith — Virginia Olejnik

Triune God, whose life is shared in perfect unity, you created all things to be part of one living whole. Help us see ourselves not as separate from creation but woven into its web of life. May our offerings reflect our deep connection to all your creatures. Bless us and our gifts so that we may nourish both human and more-than-human communities; in Christ’s name 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-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

Siblings, however dark the night gets — whenever you have given in to fear and held back from community — know that you are held in a love like this: the creator who made you still claims you in covenant love; the redeemer is the Christ, in whom we yet abide; the sustainer of all creation yet breathes courage into your heart. Go then, and serve boldly, for God's love encompasses the whole of 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.*
John Flucker, *Pianist*

Jennifer Rudy, *Soprano*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

Doxology (*Old Hundredth LM*)

Music by Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Words by Thomas Ken, 1674

“For the Healing of the Nations”

Music by John Hughes; Words by Fred Kaan
based on *Revelation 21:1 – 22:5*

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Music by Sebastian Temple, Words adapted
from the *Prayer of St. Francis*, Matt. 6:12-15

“Shout to the Lord”

Words and Music by Darlene Zschech;

Piano Arrangement by John Fluker

“Change My Heart, O God”

Words and Music by Eddie Espinosa and Bob
Kilpatrick; Arrangement by John F. Wilson

“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

new **Perla** – Nancy Westcott’s family friend Perla is beginning cancer treatment for the second time. She has two young children. Prayers for effective medical care and general good health, and blessings on her family.



NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and **FELLOWSHIP**: Today's flowers are provided anonymously, and 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. Phyllis, Jeanette, and Virginia coordinate the arrangements.

A COURSE IN MIRACLES: Friend of LWCC, **Abby Stevens**, continues facilitating "A Course in Miracles" – a FREE weekly discussion of the book of the same name this Tuesday, September 23rd and every Tuesday at 1:00 PM in the Music Room. The book by Dr. Kenneth Wapnick, is summed up: *"Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists. Herein lies the peace of God."* The book may be purchased online but is also accessible for FREE at www.miraclecenter.org. More information at www.acim.org.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR: Enjoy "Coffee with Pastor" this Thursday, September 25th 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 & conversation.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS: We celebrate the many among us who are active participants and extend an invitation to make it official. This Thursday, September 25th, at 11:30 AM Pastor Johan offers a time to meet and discuss what becoming a member entails. Membership is a way of boldly declaring how the Spirit of Love is working in your life through your time, talent, treasure, and witness.

MISSIONS TEAM: The next Missions Team meeting is Sunday, September 28th, immediately following Worship & Fellowship.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We seek volunteers to assist Nancy Westcott as she organizes Prayer Shawls and the large supply of remaining yarn.

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 and his love for animals, the service will include "Blessing of the Animals." *Leisure World residents are invited to bring their well-behaved pets for a blessing.* Dogs must be leashed according to LW rules. Use good judgment regarding the use of kennels & cages. Please be responsible your pet's behavior.

SAVE THE DATE: Jim & Lois Dimos will celebrate their 20th Wedding Anniversary with a renewal of their vows and a reception supper with **LIVE MUSIC** on Saturday, October 25, 2025, 4 – 6 pm at LWCC. *ALL are welcome!*

NEED A BIBLE or DEVOTIONAL?: Free Bibles on the small bookshelf in the narthex. Free Devotional Books outside the Library. *Help yourself!*

RECENT LWCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

August 24th: 34 | August 31st: 39 | September 7th: 33 | September 14th: 31

September 21, 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

Celtic Version of The Lord's Prayer

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

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

Household Prayer: Evening

The Lord's Prayer

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 kin-dom, and the power,

and the glory, forever. Amen.