



**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 28, 2025

Season of Creation – 5th Sunday

The Sin of Othering



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 — Phyllis Spencer

O God, you show your very nature in an open embrace of all and care for the least: Grant us the fullness of your love, that we may give up all for your creatures; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

HYMN: "On Eagle's Wings"

VERSE 1 4

1. You who dwell in the shel-ter of our God, who a-bide in this shad-ow for

life, say to our God: "My re - fuge, my rock in whom I trust!" *(to Refrain)*

REFRAIN

13 And God will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the
 17 breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and
 20 hold you in the palm of God's hand. (to Verses)

Last time only

23 And hold you, hold you in the palm of God's hand.

VERSE 2

30 2. The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no
 34 fear: un - der God's wings your re - fuge, and faith-ful-ness your shield. (to Refrain)

VERSE 3

39 3. You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, nor the ar - row that flies by
 43 day; though thou - sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come. (to Refrain)

VERSE 4

48 4. For to the an - gels God's gi - ven a com - mand to
 51 guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will
 54 bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone. (to Refrain)

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Blessed God, whose love calls the whole creation into covenant with you, and who puts in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying, “Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.”

For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the waters of the earth; for their careful use and conservation, that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the creatures of the earth who do us harm and those whose place in your creation we do not understand or welcome, that we may see them as beloved creatures of God, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For all who shape public policies affecting the planet and its creatures, that they may consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the creatures and the human beings of your world who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need, and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth’s resources or their devastation by war, that all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the gifts of science and technology and for those who practice these skills, that they may be wise, visionary, and compassionate in their work, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the creatures and the people of the earth whose lives and deaths have contributed to the fruitful abundance of this planet, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "It Is Well with My Soul"

1. When peace, like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, When sor - rows like
2. Though ev - il should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let this blest as -
3. Our faults - O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought, Our faults - not in
4. And, God, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled

sea - bil - lows roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast taught me to
sur - rance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
part but the whole, For - give us our faults, may we bear them no
back as a scroll, Our voic - es re - sound and our God shall de -

say, "It is well, it is well, with my soul." _____
tate, And hath shared God's own love for my soul. _____ It is well _____
more, For 'tis writ: "God is love," O my soul! _____ It is
scend, "E - ven so" - It is well with my soul. _____

well with my soul, _____ It is well, it is well, with my soul.
with my soul, _____

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Phyllis Spencer

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 — Phyllis Spencer

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

MESSAGE: “The Sin of Othering: Investing in Relationships, Part 2”

— Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Othering is the act of treating someone as if they are fundamentally different and separate from a group — leading to — us vs them thinking — they are other — different — lesser. We live in a culture built upon othering — to claim we are exceptional, or to claim we are the shining city on the hill is to claim we are better than someone else, or even to claim we are better than everyone else. Where have you committed the sin of othering someone and what might you do to see them as a part of yourself rather than as other?

REFLECTION: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Phyllis Spencer

We brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of the world. Let us give both the gifts we have been given and our truest selves with glad and generous hearts.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: "Fill My Cup, Lord" — Jennifer Rudy, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Phyllis Spencer

**God who gives life to all things, and richly provides us with everything,
use these our offerings, to take hold of and show us, the life that really
is. 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

Let us join with the Earth and each other—to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air, to protect the animals, to treasure the trees, to gaze at the stars, to cherish the human community, to heal the Earth, to remember the children. Let us go forth to put our words into action. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH: “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Blest Be the Tie that Binds". It is written for Soprano, Tenor, and Piano. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is in the Soprano part, with the Tenor part providing a harmonic accompaniment. The Piano part provides a bass line. The lyrics are: "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

“On Eagle’s Wings”
Words and Music by Michael Joncas,
based on Psalm 91; Arranged by Lloyd Larson

“It Is Well with My Soul”
Tune: *VILLE DU HAVRE* by Philip P. Bliss;
Words by Horatio G. Spafford; Public Domain

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
Music by Charles C. Converse;
Piano Arrangement by Mark Hayes

“Fill My Cup, Lord”
Words and Music by Richard Blanchard
© 1964 Word Music, LLC

“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 **Taylor White** – Taylor has moved to Harrison’s Board & Care, 2932 Channing Way, Los Alamitos. Prayers for comfort. Cards and visits are welcome. She loves her new Prayer Shawl, and enjoys songs, readings for joy, and spiritual comfort. Text her daughter Hilary at 562-225-7401 to schedule visits.

update **Linda & Lewis Hildreth** – Prayers for continued progress with new medical treatments, and general good health and comfort.

update **Sandy Walker** – Sandy’s physical therapy is progressing well, and she has moved in with her daughter, where she will continue her recovery for two weeks before she returns home. Prayers for speedy recovery and general good health.

update **Joyce Reed** – Joyce is settling well in her new home. Prayers for wellness and comfort. She can be reached by phone at 562-252-2042. If you wish to send correspondence, please mail to:

Joyce Reed
Clearwater Beaverton
910 NW 185th Ave
Beaverton, OR 97006

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and **FELLOWSHIP**: Today's flowers are provided by Sandy Cardot. Fellowship refreshments are provided by **Jennifer & David Rudy**. 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: Our weekly discussion of "**A Course in Miracles**" will be on hiatus for the next two weeks, and will resume on Tuesday, October 14th at 1:00 PM in the Music Room. More information on the book at www.acim.org.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR: Enjoy "Coffee with Pastor" this Thursday, October 2nd 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.

MISSIONS TEAM: The Missions Team meets **TODAY**, 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: NEXT SUNDAY, October 5, 2025, our Worship 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.

BROADWAY'S LERNER & LOEWE: NEXT SUNDAY, October 5, 2025, at 3:30 PM, we present "**Broadway's Lerner & Loewe,**" a musical history of lyricist Alan Jay Lerner and composer Frederick Loewe. Led by John Fluker, and featuring Lisa Margaroli, Jennifer Rudy, Sean Gabel, & Dave Albulario, and songs from **My Fair Lady**, **Brigadoon**, **Camelot**, **Paint Your Wagon**, and **Gigi**! Broadway favorites include "I Could Have Danced All Night," "Almost Like Being in Love," "They Call the Wind 'Mariah'," "On the Street Where You Live," "Get Me to the Church on Time," and more, accompanied by their life stories beautifully written by Grace Zangwill. Tickets at the door or call the Church Office at 562-431-2503.

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 31st: 39 | September 7th: 33 | September 14th: 31 | September 21st: 40

BROADWAY'S LERNER & LOEWE

A Celebration of the Musical Theater Sensations

Alan Jay Lerner & **Frederick Loewe**
Lyricist *Composer*



*Pianist/vocalist John Fluker, alto vocalist Lisa Margaroli, soprano vocalist Jennifer Rudy,
bass vocalist Sean Gabel, & narrator Dave Albulario*

Sunday, October 5, 2025 • 3:30 PM

An afternoon of the music and history of Broadway lyricist Alan Jay Lerner and composer Frederick Loewe, including songs from *My Fair Lady*, *Brigadoon*, *Camelot*, *Paint Your Wagon*, and *Gigi*! Broadway favorites include "I Could Have Danced All Night," "Almost Like Being in Love," "They Call the Wind 'Mariah,'" "On the Street Where You Live," "Get Me to the Church On Time," and more, accompanied by their life stories beautifully written by Grace Zangwill. LEISURE WORLD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 14000 Church Pl, Seal Beach, CA 90740. Tickets at the door or by calling 562-431-2503.

\$15 for Seniors/Students

\$20 General

All-Are-Welcome Tickets: **FREE**

*If you wish to attend, but are unable to pay for a ticket, ask for an "All-Are-Welcome Ticket," and it's yours for **FREE**. Those with means are invited to subsidize these tickets with your contribution.*

September 28, 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

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.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

The Lord's Prayer

*Translated from Aramaic directly into English, rather than
from Aramaic to Greek to Latin to English.*

O cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration,
soften the ground of our being and carve out a
space within us where your Presence can abide.
Fill us with your creativity so that we may be
empowered to bear the fruit of your mission.
Let each of our actions bear fruit in accordance with our desire.
Endow us with the wisdom to produce and share
what each being needs to grow and flourish.
Untie the tangled threads of destiny that bind us,
as we release others from the entanglement of past mistakes.
Do not let us be seduced by that which would divert us from
our true purpose, but illuminate the opportunities of the present
moment. For you are the ground and the fruitful vision, the
birth, power, and fulfillment, as all is gathered and made whole
once again. And So It Is!