



# 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

**October 19, 2025**

*Season of Creation – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday*

**Rev. Johan Dodge**

# What Does It Mean to Pray?

 **COMMUNITY  
CHURCH LEISURE  
WORLD**

## **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

**God of justice and mercy, you have never abandoned us. We thank you for loving us even when we have failed to love you or one another.**

**Put your persistent Spirit within us so that we may work tirelessly, until your will is done across all of creation. We seek your wisdom, yearn for your justice, and abide in your blessing, for our sake and the sake of creation. Amen.**

### HYMN: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (Tune: HYFRYDOL)

Love di - vine, — all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of Heav'n, to  
Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
Fin - ish then — thy new cre - a - tion, Kind and lov - ing

7

Earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ling,  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it;  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,  
 let us be; Be for us our one foun - da - tion,

13

all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown, Je - sus, thou art all com -  
 let us find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of  
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways  
 May we find our strength in thee. Changed from glo - ry in - to

20

pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 glo - ry, E'er with you we take our place, 'Til we cast our

27

thy in - car - na - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

**WONDER, LOVE,  
 AND PRAISE!**

*[please be seated]*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

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

Eternal God, you remain patient with us even as we struggle not to judge one another.

We thank you for all who have taught us the faith and all who teach us still, this faith that is a firm foundation for our lives together. We pray that you will continue to guide and bless the church in yet another time of change and reformation. Help us to trust in you so strongly that we are willing to take risks for the story of your love, even if, in risking, we grow uncomfortable or afraid of uncertainty and newness. Keep us moving in concert with the Holy Spirit. Give your church wisdom to discern sound teaching. Never let us be satisfied with easy answers that do not follow your way.

We bring to you the concerns and cares of the world around us. Especially, we pray for those who long for justice and freedom, safety and sustenance.

We pray for those who work to overturn laws that oppress, and those who work to restrain military might that threatens human dignity.

We pray for people being caught in unjust systems; those being denied education and healthcare; victims of human trafficking; exiles who wander, lonely for home.

We pray for all who live daily with food insecurity, and income insecurity, and peace insecurity. We pray fervently for an end to war and violence among us.

We pray for an end to hunger and for an increase in generosity as we share the world's resources.

We pray for all who are in harm's way today, whether the threat is from natural disaster or a disaster of our own contriving.

We bring you the cares and joys of our lives. We rejoice with those among us who celebrate a time of newness and renewal; for a new addition to the family; for a new relationship bringing a sense of happiness and fun; for meaningful work to do and good colleagues; for new members and visitors among us who bring energy, and ideas, and faith stories that enrich our life together; for healing and hope after a difficult time.

We pray too for those in the midst of struggle and pain; those who are contending with illness; ones in need of the comfort and peace that only you can provide, O God. We pray for those living with the anxiety of loss — whether that loss is income, or memory, or stability of home or friendship. Heal us of our diseases; strengthen us in our frailties; and empower us for change.

We do not cry out in desperation, but in hope; for you are with us in all circumstances and you reveal your love for us when we call upon you. **Amen.**

*[please stand as you are able]*

**HYMN: "Wonderful Words of Life"**

Sing them o - ver a - gain to me,  
Christ, the bless - ed one, gives to all, won - der - ful words of life, —  
Sweet - ly ech - o the Gos - pel call,

Let me more of their beau - ty see,  
Let us list to the lov - ing call, won - der - ful words of life;  
Of - fer par - don and peace to all,

Words of life — and beau - ty teach me faith and du - ty.  
All so free - ly giv - en, woo - ing us — to Hea - ven.  
Je - sus Christ our bro - ther, sanc - ti - fy us for - ev - er.

Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life, —

Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.

*[please be seated]*

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Lois Dimos**

Speak to us by the power of your Holy Spirit and equip us to be agents of your life-altering, world-changing, blessing-filled love. Through the Christ we pray. **Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE — Lois Dimos**

### **Luke 18:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup> He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup> In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ <sup>4</sup> For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

**MESSAGE:** “What Does It Mean To Pray?” — Rev. Johan Dodge

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge**

If we think of ourselves as the widow in this parable, then few of us have her stamina in the hard exhausting work of seeking justice on behalf of the powerless. Perhaps this is the reason Jesus asks the closing question of the parable. ... when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? Will he find faith in us — persistent, tireless faith seeking justice? Where are you working toward justice in the world around us? What more might you do to bring God’s justice to the margins of our society?

**REFLECTION:** “Hour of Prayer” & “Sweet Hour of Prayer” — John Fluker, *pianist*  
(*playing his own original song combined with the classic hymn*)

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Lois Dimos**

My siblings, our ministry is most fully carried out when our hearts are full — full of love, justice, and generosity in sharing what we have with others. Equipped for every good work, we now present ourselves and our offerings before God.

*[Ushers, please come forward]*

**OFFERTORY:** “Sing a New Song” — Dave Albulario, *tenor*



## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Lois Dimos

Eternal God, may these gifts be signs of your grace, and may our lives show forth the coming kin-dom. 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

May the Love of God dwell in your heart; may the grace of Christ uphold your strength; may the Holy Spirit equip you for the work of justice that is yours to do. And may the love of God, the way of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit sustain us until we meet again. **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 a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence. 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: Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Dir.*  
John Fluker, *Pianist*

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

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

**“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**  
Tune: HYFRYDOL by Rowland H. Prichard;  
Words by Charles Wesley;  
Harmony from *The English Hymnal*

**“Wonderful Words of Life”**  
Music and Words by  
Philip Paul Bliss, 1874

**“Hour of Prayer” & “Sweet Hour of Prayer”**  
“Hour of Prayer” Music by John Fluker  
“Sweet Hour of Prayer” Music by William B.  
Bradbury; Piano Arrangement by John Fluker

**“Sing a New Song”**  
Music by Dan Schutte;  
Text based on *Psalms* 98:1

**“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

**Sandy Walker** – A note from Sandy: *“Thank you to everyone for the get-well cards, the visits, and all the prayers during my convalescence. It was very much appreciated.*

*Blessings, - Sandy”*

**Perla Rodgers** – Nancy’s Westcott’s family friend, Perla has completed radiation therapy and now begins “cold cap” chemotherapy. She has two young children. Prayers for strength, effective treatment, good medical care, and blessings on her family.

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

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

## NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**FLOWERS** and **FELLOWSHIP**: Today's flowers are anonymously provided. Fellowship refreshments are provided by Noemi Albulario. 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**: "A Course in Miracles" continues Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 PM in the Music Room. Our FREE weekly discussion of the book "A Course in Miracles" by Dr. Kenneth Wapnick, is summed up: *"Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists. Herein lies the peace of God."* The book is accessible for FREE at [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org). More information on the book at [www.acim.org](http://www.acim.org).

**COFFEE WITH PASTOR**: Enjoy "Coffee with Pastor" this Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</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 & conversation.

**JIM & LOIS DIMOS' ANNIVERSARY**: Jim & Lois will celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary **THIS** Saturday, October 25, 2025, 4 – 6 pm at LWCC with a renewal of their vows and a reception supper with **LIVE MUSIC**. *ALL are welcome! No gifts please*, but if you wish, feel free to make a donation to LWCC (*no pressure!*).

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**: Sunday, November 2, 2025, is ALL SAINTS SUNDAY. If you've had a loved one pass away in the past year, and you would like to remember them, their name will be read aloud, and a candle lit in their honor. *Please submit their names on the cards available in the narthex, by October 30th.*

**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:

September 21<sup>st</sup>: 40 | September 28<sup>th</sup>: 35 | October 5<sup>th</sup>: 44 | October 12<sup>th</sup>: 27



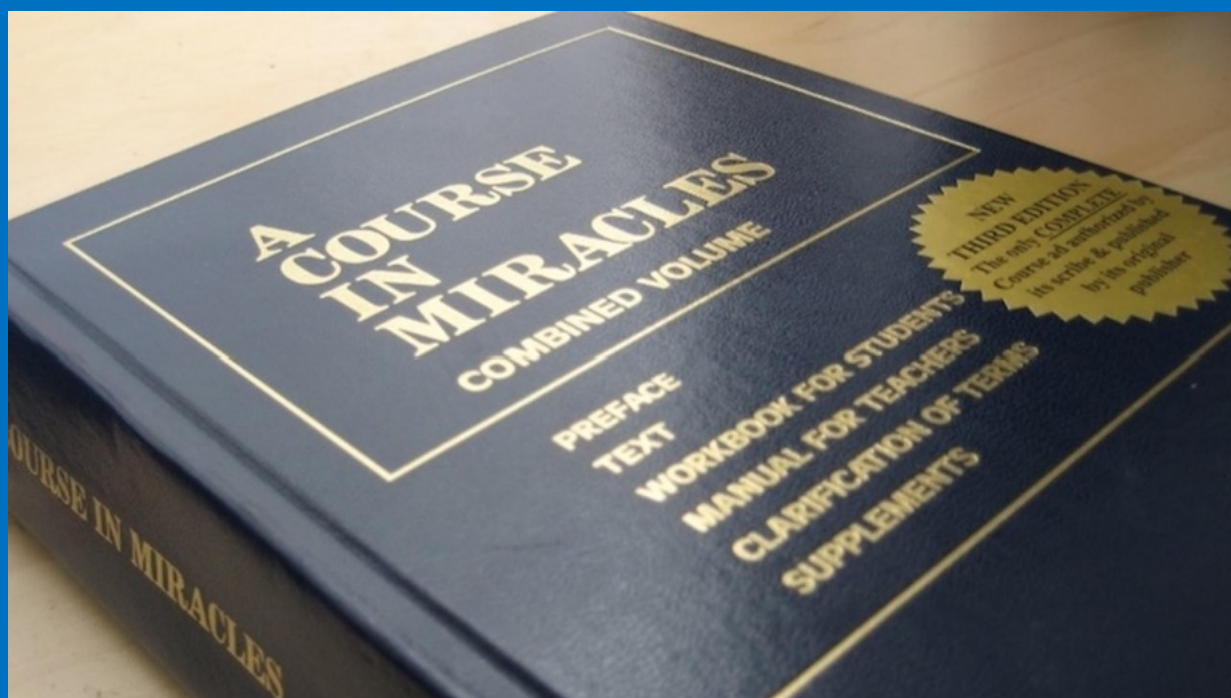
# A COURSE IN *Miracles*

Friend of LWCC, **Abby Stevens**, facilitates “**A Course in Miracles**” – a FREE discussion of the book of the same name every Tuesday, at 1:00 PM, in the LW Community Church Music Room. Focused on the teachings of Dr. Kenneth Wapnick, the course is summed up:

***“Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists.  
Herein lies the peace of God.”***

The book may be purchased online at varying cost (hardback, paperback, ebook, etc.), but is also accessible for FREE at [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org). For more information on “A Course in Miracles” visit [www.acim.org](http://www.acim.org).

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October 19, 2025



# 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

### *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