



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

November 9, 2025

1st Sunday of Advent: Wisdom



Rev. Johan Dodge

God of the Living



**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.

Advent Candle Week 1: Wisdom — Phyllis Spencer

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,
we look on these earthly signs — and remember God's promise to our world:
Christ, God's Light and Love, has come.

Candle Reader — Mo Ashley

Listen to the words of Creation:



In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness, Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. *Genesis 1:1-5.*

Candle Lighter — Alvin Knowles

[As the candle is lit, all stand as you are able, and sing]

CALL TO WORSHIP: Doxology for Advent

A musical score for a call to worship. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score is arranged for a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. It consists of five systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second system starts with a measure rest marked '5'. The third system starts with a measure rest marked '9'. The fourth system has a measure rest marked '14' and includes a double bar line. The fifth system starts with a measure rest marked '19' and includes a double bar line. The lyrics are: 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here be low. Praise God above, ye heav'n - ly host: Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.' There are various musical notations including eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and full notes, as well as rests and bar lines. A '2' is written below the final system, indicating a repeat or a second ending.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise
God, all crea - tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host: Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall
come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

2



Candle Prayer — Phyllis Spencer

Let us pray ...

Eternal God, your Word of wisdom goes forth and does not return empty: Grant us such knowledge and love of you that we may perceive your presence in all creation and every creature; through Jesus Christ our teacher, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, now and forever. Amen.

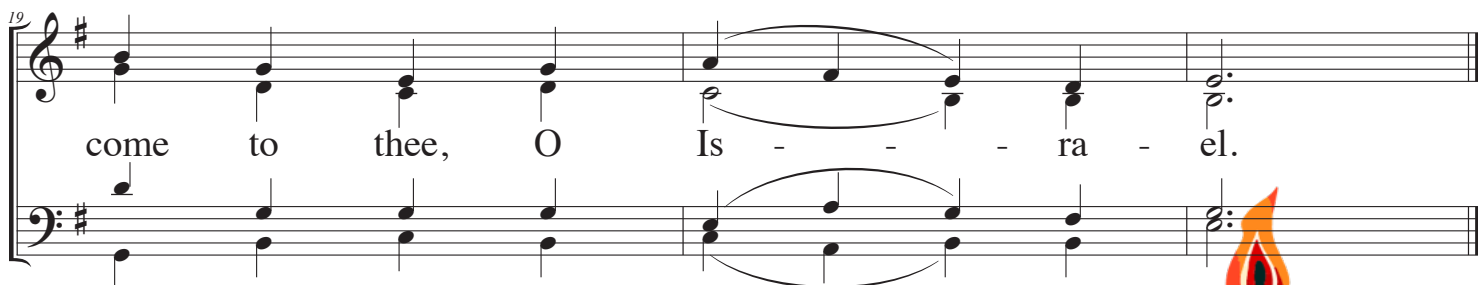
HYMN: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high, who
3. O come, O come great Lord of might, who
4. O come, O Branch of Jes - se's stem, un -

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
or - dered all things might - i - ly to us the path of
to your tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times did
to your own and res - cue them! From depths of death your

ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
know - ledge show and teach us in its ways to go.
give the law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall



[please be seated]



STEWARDSHIP MOMENT — Phyllis Spencer

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Ever present God, you call us to be the body of the risen Christ, extending eternal comfort and hope to those around us. We pray for the church universal and for all who bring comfort and hope to others.

Holy God, your loving kindness knows no ending.

We pray for peace between nations, between religions and denominations, even between families and within families.

Holy God, your loving kindness knows no ending.

We pray with thanksgiving for all the guides and mentors who have gone before us and for those who teach your way of love from one generation to the next.

Holy God, your loving kindness knows no ending.

We pray for those who suffer violence and for those who inflict it, that they may hold fast to your way of love.

Holy God, your loving kindness knows no ending.

We pray for those who are nearing death, that they may know they are ver alive in you.

Holy God, your loving kindness knows no ending.

Loving God, through Jesus our guide and teacher, you have shown us the way of love. Renew our hearts that we turn to ever follow you, eternally making joyful noise and singing new songs to proclaim the good news of your love.

Amen.

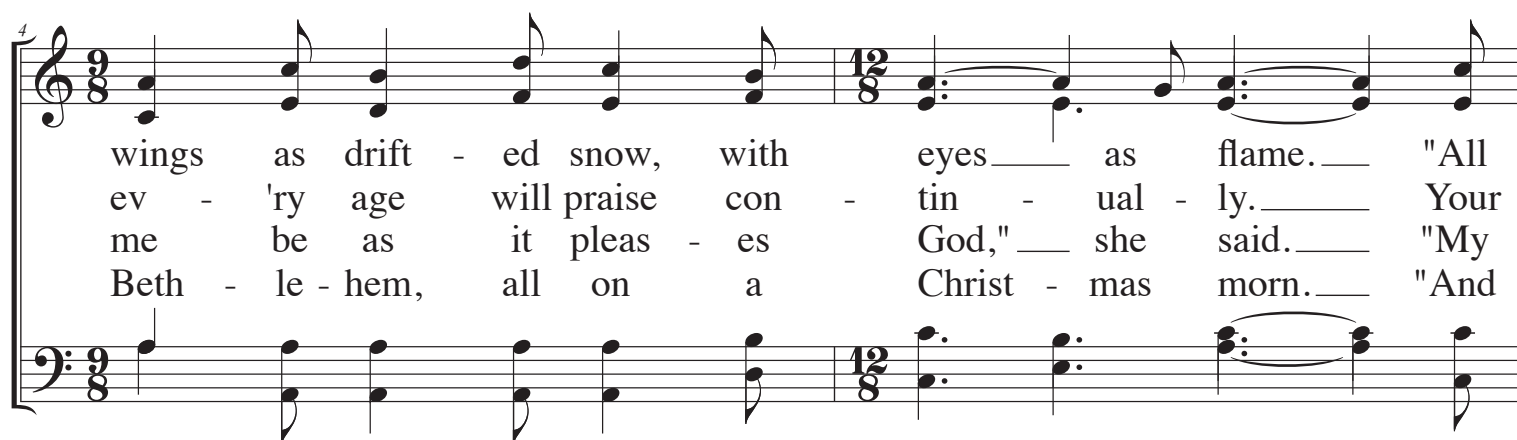


[please stand as you are able]

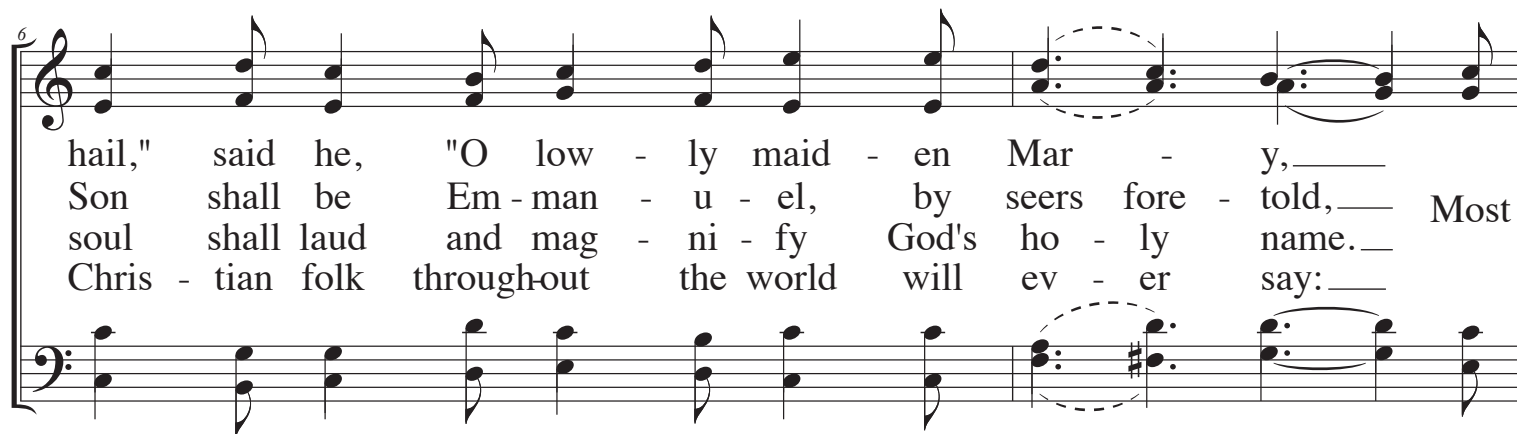
HYMN: "The Angel Gabriel"



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from Heav - en came, — With
 2. "How blest a - mong all wom - en you shall be, — Whom
 3. Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head. — "To
 4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born — In



wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes — as flame. — "All
 ev - 'ry age will praise con - tin - ual - ly. — Your
 me be as it pleas - es God," — she said. — "My
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn. — "And



hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Mar - y, —
 Son shall be Em-man - u - el, by seers fore - told, — Most
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name. —
 Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say: —



high - ly fa-vored la - dy," Gló - - - ri - a! —

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Phyllis Spencer

God of wisdom, by your Spirit may your Word be proclaimed, that we may know good news in our hearts and minds, and bear witness to the glory of Christ Jesus in word and deed. Quiet in us any voice but your own, that we might hear your Word to us today. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Phyllis Spencer

Luke 20:27-38

²⁷ Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him ²⁸ and asked him a question: “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; ³⁰ then the second ³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³² Finally the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.”

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.

³⁶ Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive.”

MESSAGE: “God of the Living” — Rev. Johan Dodge



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

We each have our own ideas and visions of what happens to us after we die. When the opponents of Jesus tried to trick him by asking a convoluted question about what heaven is like after we die, Jesus replied by saying that God is not the God of the dead but of the living because we are always alive to God. How does that inform our sense of community?

REFLECTION: “In Christ Alone” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*



INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Phyllis Spencer

In many and various ways, God gives us comfort and hope. In gratitude, then, let us give generously. **Amen.**

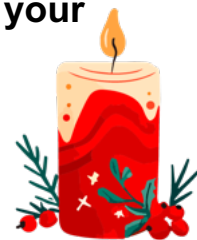
[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: Music from “Godspell” — Dave Albulario, *tenor*



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Phyllis Spencer

For the gifts offered this day and every day we give thanks, O God. Make us good stewards of all you have entrusted to our care. May these gifts be used to serve your beloved creation, to sustain your children in all they say and do, and to build up your kin-dom throughout the earth. 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

My siblings, go into the world in peace, bearing witness to the God of presence. Bless God's holy name forever and ever and hold fast to the way of love shown to us by Jesus. **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*

Doxology for Advent (*Veni, Immanuel*)
 15th C. French Hymn, Words by Thomas Ken,
 Text and Tune adapted by Dean McIntyre

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
 15th C. French Hymn *VENI IMMANUEL*,
 Adapted by Thomas Helmore; Words by John
 Mason Neale trans. from 12th C. Latin text

"The Angel Gabriel"
 Traditional Basque Carol, Harmonization by
 Charles E. Pettman; English paraphrase by
 Savine Baring-Gould

"In Christ Alone"
 Music by Keith Getty; Words by Stuart
 Townend (*not included in this arrangement*);
 Piano Arrangement by Mark Hayes

Music from "Godspell"
 "Prepare Ye" and "Save the People"
 Words and Music by Stephen Schwartz

"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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 562-431-2503 /// CCLI License No. 187225

PRAYER REQUESTS

new Irma Harmon – Lois Dimos' mother, Irma Harmon, age 92, broke her hip and had to have surgery on November 4th. Prayers for speedy healing, comfort, and good care.

Connie Young – Connie passed away the morning of Thursday, October 30, 2025. Prayers of peaceful rest for her, and strength for her husband Jay and family. Watch this space for memorial service information.

Linda & Lewis Hildreth – Linda and Lewis are no longer accepting personal phone calls. If you would like to visit, call caregivers Josie or Jesús at 714-373-1218. Cards may be sent to *Home on Cascade, 15311 Cascade Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647*. Linda begins a new type of chemotherapy this week. Prayers for continued medical progress, and general good health and comfort.

Taylor White – Continued prayers of comfort for Taylor, who is at *Harrison's Board & Care, 2932 Channing Way, Los Alamitos, CA 90720*. 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.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and **FELLOWSHIP**: Today's flowers are provided by Mara Williams, and Fellowship refreshments are provided by Lorna Lass. See the sign-up charts to provide refreshments or cover the cost of altar flowers for future services. Altar flowers are \$35. See Sandy Walker to coordinate the arrangements.

SOCK-IT-TO-'EM: Our Veterans Day "Sock It to 'Em" sock drive continues! Please bring *new* packages of men's and women's **white athletic socks** to Sunday Worship or to the church office during the week (*FYI: Kohl's has a Veterans Day Sale this week!*). If you prefer, you may also provide a cash/check offering toward the purchase of socks. They will be given to the Veterans Administration for distribution the week of Veterans Day (Nov 11th).

A COURSE IN MIRACLES: "A Course in Miracles" continues Tuesday, November 11th 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. More information on the book at www.acim.org.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR: Enjoy "Coffee with Pastor" this Thursday, November 13th 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.

CHRISTMAS MARKET: LWCC's **Christmas Market** is coming! Join us on Saturday, November 29, 2025, 9 AM – 1 PM. Peruse Holiday wares, enjoy Christmas treats, start the season with cheer & merriment! **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

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:

October 12th: 27 | October 19th: 34 | October 26th: 38 | November 2nd: 39





November 9, 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

Holy One, I want to see you today in this world with my own eyes. Even though your greatness is unsearchable, today I want to meditate on your wondrous works all around me. Give me the eyes of faith through which to see you, Renew me, that I may praise you with a new song. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

God, thank you for guiding my steps on your paths today. Where my feet may have slipped, forgive me. You have ponderously shown me your steadfast love through the course of this day. Now let me fall asleep in the shadow of your wings, for I have seen today that you are my redeemer, the living God. Amen.

