

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 16, 2025
2nd Sunday of Advent: Love



Rev. Johan Dodge

*Love is Here
God is Now*



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 2: Love — Marylee Thomsen

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

Candle Reader — Lois Dimos

Listen to the words of Creation in Genesis:

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together, Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. *Genesis 1:9-13*



Candle Lighter — Jim Dimos

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



CALL TO WORSHIP: Doxology for Advent

5

9

14

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures 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

19

come to thee, O Is - ra - el.



Candle Prayer — Rev. Johan Dodge

Let us pray ...

Loving God, you gave us, your creation, the earth upon which to thrive and share in your gifts of abundance. And yet we have turned to ourselves and held our desires above yours. Place into our hearts a love for others even as we grow in our understanding of your love for us and all of your creation. May the light that we light today remind us that we are not to place ourselves first as we labor together to build the new earth in your name. Amen.

HYMN: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, thou long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set thy
Joy to those_ who long to see_ thee, Day - spring from on
Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, born a child and
peo - ple free; from our fears_ and sins re - lease us,
high, ap - pear. Come, thou prom - ised Son of Da - vid,
born our kin, born to reign_ in us for - e - ver,
let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
of thy love, we long to hear! O'er the hills_ the an - gels
now thy gra - cious kin - dom bring. By thine own_ e - ter - nal

20

la - tion, hope of all the Earth thou art; dear de - sire of
sing - ing news, glad ti - dings of thy birth; "See the babe, your
spi - rit, love us with thy ten - der grace; by thine all suf -

27

ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
prais - es bring - ing, Je - sus Christ has come to Earth!"
fi - cient me - rit, hold us in thy warm em - brace.

[please be seated]



STEWARDSHIP MOMENT — Lois Dimos

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

God of new beginnings, you have promised us a season in which weeping will no longer be heard, nor cries of distress. Yet we live in a season of weeping and distress and find ourselves calling out for guidance and the way of Jesus in this time of trial.

We pray for elected officials and for civil servants. Stir them to heed justice and rouse us to hold them accountable.

God in your way of love, **Teach us to act.**

We pray for those who are sick or in trouble, especially those we name in this moment —

Comfort them with grace and empower us to minister to them.

God in your way of love, **Teach us to act.**

We pray for all who suffer violence of human hands or natural disasters, especially the people of Gaza, the people of Ukraine, and the people across the world recovering from massive storms. Bind us to them and encourage us to care for them.

God in your way of love, **Teach us to act.**

We pray for children and the elderly, especially those who are home bound. Protect them with your care and strengthen us to tend to them.

God in your way of love, **Teach us to act.**



We pray for all those who may live in fear of your judgement, those who have known rejection, and those who have been pushed to the margins of our society. Help us to show them that love casts out fear and enable them to find a place in your community in which to belong and be loved. May we be a community of love and reconciliation.

God in your way of love, **Teach us to act.**

God of mercy, our guide and teacher, receive these prayers that we ask in our need even as you graciously care for all of creation. In gratitude and in hope, we pray in the name of Jesus who showed us the way. **Amen.**



[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

musical score for the hymn "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" in G major, 4/4 time. The score includes vocal staves with lyrics and piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *f*, and *pp*.

Lyrics:

Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem
I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have
This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills
hath sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As
in the mind, With Ma - ry we be - hold it. The
the air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The
those of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright,
bless - ed moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right
dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True Light from Heav'n a - bove,
A - mid the cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
She bore to us our Teach - er, When half - spent was the night.
To light - en ev - 'ry bur - den, And show us how to Love.

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Marylee Thomsen

God of breath and God of silence, quiet in us the voice of fear that seeks to shout over your voice of love, that by the power of your loving Spirit we might hear, and in hearing, we might be stirred to action, calling forth your new creation in the here and now. **Amen.**



SCRIPTURE — Marylee Thomsen

Luke 21:5-19

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

Signs and Persecutions

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹ “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance,

¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death.

¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.



MESSAGE: “Love is Here, God is Now” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Jesus speaks of wars, insurrections, earthquakes, famines, and plagues, but instructs his followers, “Do not be terrified!” How does our witness to the Good News of God’s Love include our natural impulse to be terrorized by evil? What are ways we might stay energized in a seemingly impossible task? In a world that values business above all else, how do we in a healthy and faithful way also strive to find and create sabbath rest?

REFLECTION: “What Child Is This?” (“Greensleeves”) — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Marylee Thomsen

In a world filled with blessings, we celebrate our privilege and our responsibility to share those blessings. Let us celebrate the God of overwhelming blessings by offering our tithes and gifts. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Away in a Manger” (“Cradle Song”) — Jennifer Rudy, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Marylee Thomsen



Loving God, before we give to you, you have given to us. All we offer we have received from you, we thank you for your goodness, and we praise you for your bountiful works, through the power of the Holy Spirit. 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

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

Now may the God of Love who taught us the way of active hope in the life and teachings of Jesus give you comfort in your heart and strengthen you to share every good deed and word. **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 for Advent (*Veni, Immanuel*)
15th C. French Hymn, Words by Thomas Ken,
Text and Tune adapted by Dean McIntyre

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
Tune: *HYFRYDOL* by Rowland H. Prichard,
Words by Charles Wesley

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
17th Century, German Carol, Harmony by
Michael Praetorius, English Translation by
Theodore Baker, Copyright © 1894, 1923 by
G. Schirmer, Inc.

"What Child Is This"
Traditional English melody *GREENSLEEVES*
(c. 1580); Words by William Chatterton Dix
"The Manger Throne" (1865); tune & words
combined by John Stainer (1871)

"Away in a Manger"
Tune: *CRADLE SONG*, Music by William J.
Kirkpatrick; Verse 1 & 2 Words Anonymous;
Verse 3 Words by John T. McFarland

"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

updated Connie Young – Connie passed away on October 30th. Prayers of peaceful rest for her, and strength for her husband Jay and family. *A Celebration of Connie's Life will take place on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 3:30 PM, at LW Community Church. The service will be followed immediately with a Reception in Edgar Fellowship Hall, featuring music by South Side Jazz, Connie & Jay's favorite band. All are welcome.*

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 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. See Sandy Walker to coordinate the arrangements.

SOCK-IT-TO-'EM: Today is the **last day** of our "Sock It to 'Em" Veterans Day sock drive! 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 this week.

A COURSE IN MIRACLES: "**A Course in Miracles**" continues Tuesday, Nov. 18th 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.

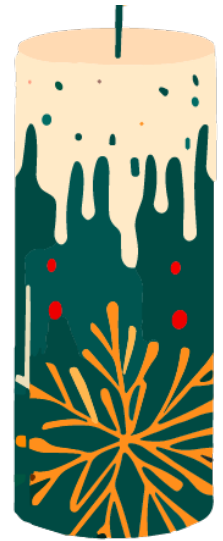
COFFEE WITH PASTOR: Enjoy "Coffee with Pastor" this Thursday, November 20th at 10 AM. Join Pastor Johan and other members of our congregation for a relaxed time to discuss any questions you may have, current events, or just to get something off your chest. Come share coffee & conversation.

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 19th: 34 | October 26th: 38 | November 2nd: 39 | November 9th: 35



November 16, 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

God of Comfort, I want to see you today in the world with my own eyes. I want to meditate on your wondrous works all around me. Give me the eyes of love through which to see you. Renew me, that I may serve in your name and share your love. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

God who set the stars, thank you for guiding my steps on your way today. I celebrate that where my feet may have slipped, you forgive me. Throughout this day you have revealed your steadfast love for me. Now let me fall asleep in your embrace and may I dream of your new Kin-dom come. Amen.

