



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 30, 2025
4th Sunday of Advent: Hope



From the Stump

Rev. Johan Dodge

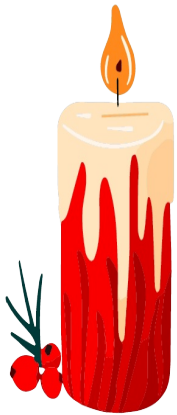
 **COMMUNITY
CHURCH LEISURE
WORLD**

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 Week 3: Hope — Phyllis Spencer

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, our Light and our Hope, will come.**



Candle Reader — Virginia Olejnik

Listen to the words of Isaiah, the prophet:

"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth ... The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them ... They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

Candle Lighter — Sandy Walker

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



CALL TO WORSHIP: Doxology for Advent

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
come to thee, O Is - ra - el. A - men.

Candle Prayer — Rev. Johan Dodge

Let us pray:

(Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6, 9-10)

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel! That day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Ever Present God, you brought forth a royal branch from the ancient stock of Jesse's line: Grant that we who have been grafted into this heritage may bear fruit worthy of Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.



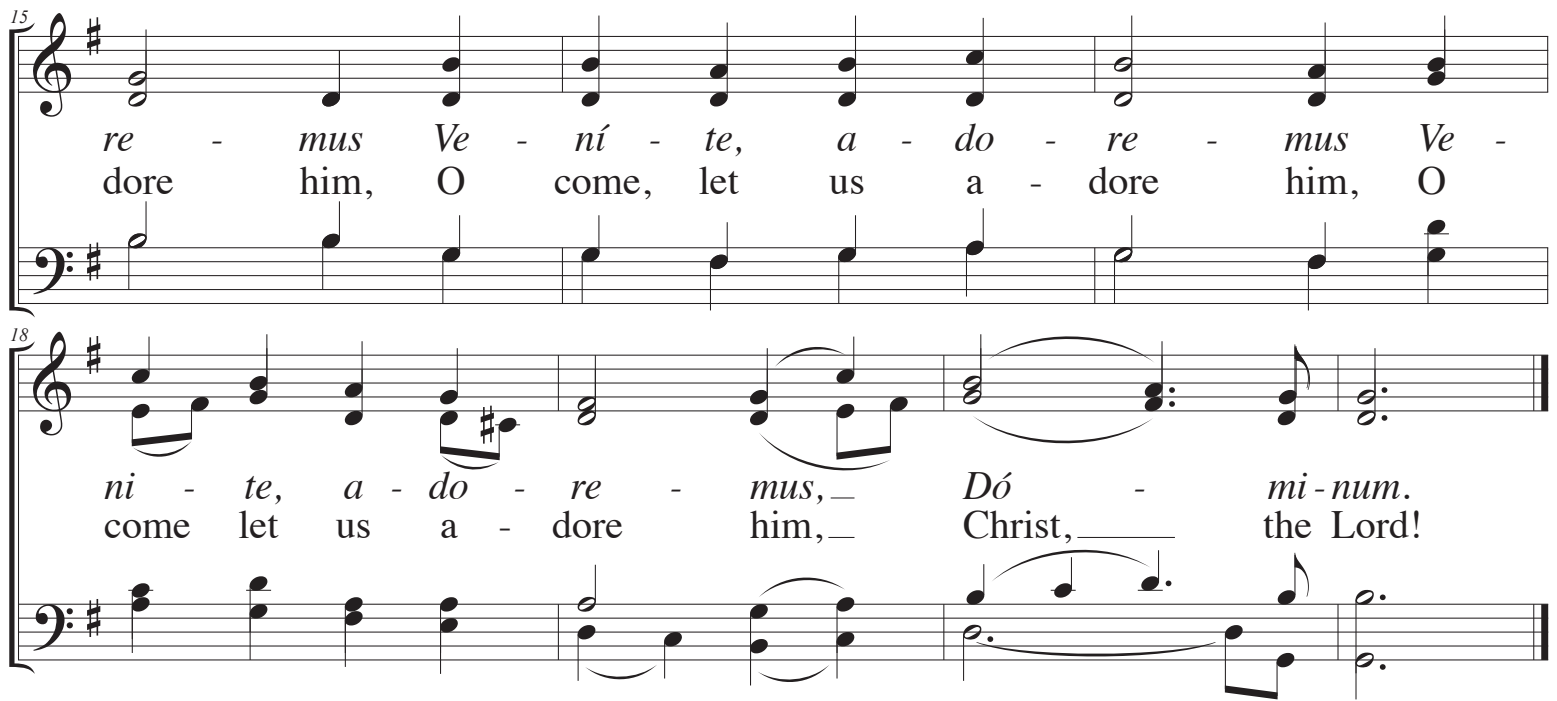
HYMN CAROL: "Adeste Fideles" / "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

1. Ad - é - ste fi - dé - les, lae - ti tri - um - phán - tes, Ve -
2. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
3. 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - u - ta - tion, 3
4. 3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, 3

ní - te, ve - ní - te in Béth - le - hem: Na - tum vi -
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; Come, and be -
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of Heav'n - a - bove! Glo - ry to
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the

dé - te Re - gem An - ge - ló - rum: Ve - ni - te, a - do -
hold him, born the King of an - gels;
God, all glo - ry in the high - est; O come, let us a -
Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

15



re - mus Ve - ní - te, a - do - re - mus Ve -
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O
ni - te, a - do - re - mus, — Dó - mi - num.
come let us a - dore him, — Christ, — the Lord!

[please be seated]

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT — Rev. Johan Dodge

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Siblings in Christ, for the sake of the world that God so loves, let us pray.

We pray for the peace of the world.

We pray for peace in every nation — that people will turn their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks and study war no more.

We pray for the peace of the church.

We pray for peace in Christ's body — put an end to fear and fighting, and help us proclaim in word and action the good news of salvation to all.

Pray for the peace of this community.

We pray for peace in this place — for safety in our homes and streets, for the prosperity of our neighbors, and for the health of family and friends.

God of the future, make us ready for the coming of your kin-dom, when we have given up our selfish ways and work together to renew the face of creation through the power of your Holy Spirit and the teachings of Jesus.

Amen.

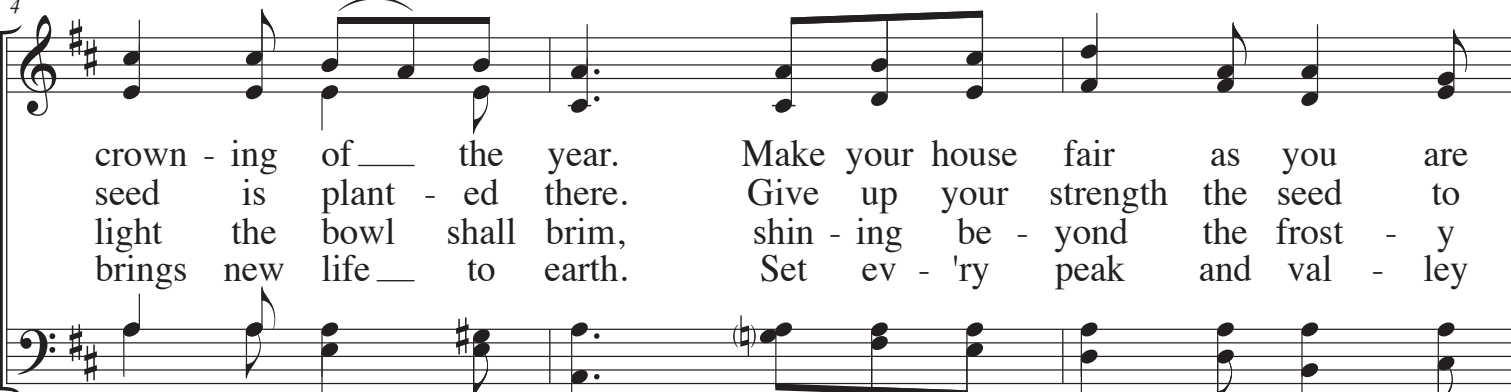
[please stand as you are able]



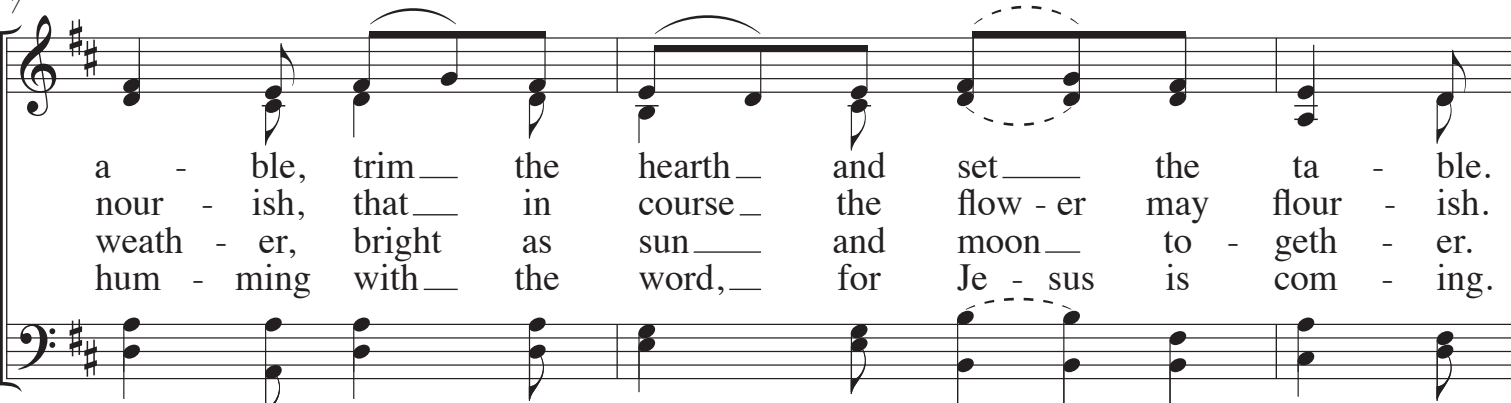
HYMN CAROL: "People, Look East"



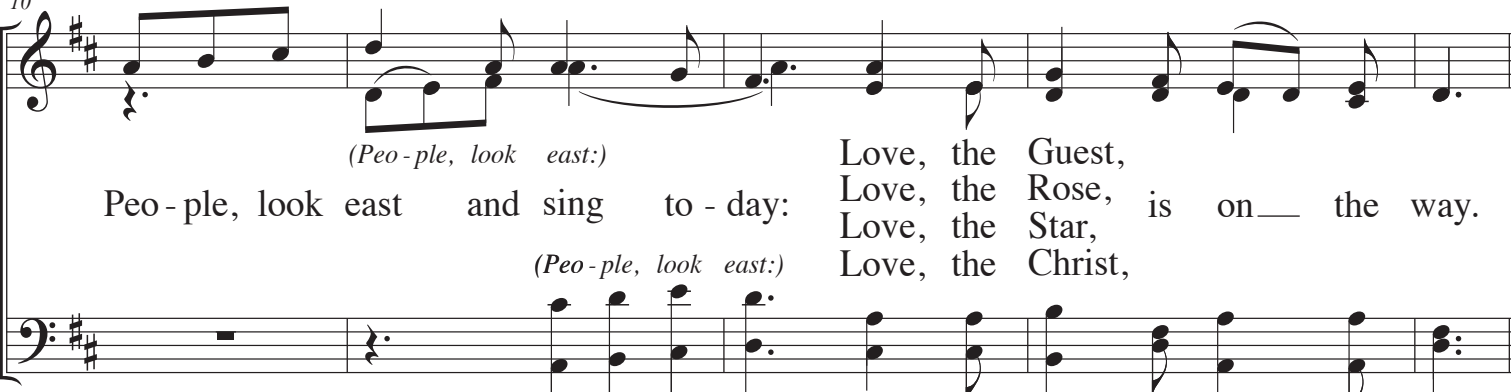
Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more
 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth one who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley



a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flow - er may flour - ish.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, for Je - sus is com - ing.



(Peo - ple, look east:)
 Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day: Love, the Guest,
 (Peo - ple, look east:) Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Star,
 Love, the Christ,

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Phyllis Spencer

Loving God of all creation, let your Word ring out from the Mountains and your Spirit shine forth in the earth, so that all may hear your teaching and all may be filled with hope and find comfort in following your way of love. **Amen.**



SCRIPTURE — Phyllis Spencer

Romans 13:11-14

An Urgent Appeal

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.



Matthew 24:36-44

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³⁶ “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

MESSAGE: “From the Stump” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

The Prophet Isaiah speaks of a shoot coming from the stump of Jesse’s tree, a renewal of the lineage that was once thought to have ended. There are times, when we look around and feel like things are ending, times in which we feel like we have lost hope. The passages from Romans and Matthew both speak to staying awake or waking up. How do these words of action fit with this idea from Isaiah to not give up hope in the face of darkness?



REFLECTION: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”— John Flucker, *pianist*
(*Playing his own arrangement.*)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Phyllis Spencer

Come with gratitude and joy to the table of the Lord. Bring the works of your hands and the gifts of your lives as an offering of praise. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “The Butterfly Song” — Dave Albulario, *tenor*



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Phyllis Spencer

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do show the world your way of love through these gifts that we share from our abundance given by you. 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

May the Way of Jesus guide you, the love of God encourage you, and the Holy Spirit empower you as you grow the light of God into the world around us. **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 Fluker, *Pianist*

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

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

"Adéste Fidèles" / "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
18th Century English Hymn Carol
Music and Words by John Francis Wade

"People, Look East"
Traditional French Carol *BESANÇON*;
Words by Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
Music by Richard S. Willis;
Piano Arrangement by John Fluker

"The Butterfly Song"
Music and Words by Brian Howard

"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

update Irma Harmon – Lois Dimos' mother, Irma Harmon, age 92, had successful hip surgery on November 4th. Thank you for your prayers – she is now doing very well.

Linda & Lewis Hildreth – Linda & Lewis are content, grateful, and welcoming visitors. They're in separate rooms to facilitate care, but they share meals together, and Lewis visits Linda in his wheelchair. They are no longer accepting personal phone calls, but if you wish to arrange a visit, please call caregivers Josie or Jesús at 714-373-1218. Cards may be sent to *Home on Cascade, 15311 Cascade Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647*. Prayers for comfort and freedom from pain, continued medical progress, and general health.

Taylor White – Taylor was recently moved into hospice and is not able to receive visitors. She loves her Prayer Shawl, and enjoys songs, readings for joy, and spiritual comfort. Continued prayers of love and comfort for Taylor.

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.*



NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and **FELLOWSHIP:** 🌸 Today's flowers and 🍪 Fellowship refreshments are provided by Steve Martinez. 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.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR: ☕ Enjoy "Coffee with Pastor" on Thursday, December 4th 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.

MEMORIAL FOR CONNIE YOUNG: Next Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 3:30 pm, a Celebration of Life will be held at LWCC to honor **Connie Young**, who passed away in October. A reception will follow immediately in Edgar Fellowship Hall, featuring music by South Side Jazz, Connie & Jay's favorite band. All are welcome. Cards may be sent to: *The Young Family, 13751 St Andrews Dr, 35-G, Seal Beach, CA 90740*

THANKSGIVING OFFERING: 🍁 Please see Pastor Johan's Thanksgiving Letter and prayerfully consider a special contribution. An Offering Envelope is attached. The proceeds will be used by SPRT for end-of-year gifts to our staff.

BLUE CHRISTMAS: Christmas can be a difficult time if we are going through life alone. If you are struggling amidst the holidays, join us Thursday, December 11th for a time of fellowship and prayer that we lovingly call **Blue Christmas**. Elvis may not make an appearance, but the love of God certainly will.

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE: On Thursday, December 18th, at **10:00 AM** (*this is the new correct time*), the annual all-church Charge Conference is scheduled in person in Edgar Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

POINSETTIAS: Pick up a special *Holiday Flower Order* envelope from the check in table in the narthex if you are interested in purchasing a **poinsettia** in honor or memory of a loved one. Fill out the form stapled to the envelope, insert a \$15 check or cash and drop it in the offering plate. Purchased poinsettias may be picked up **after Christmas Eve** worship service. The poinsettias will adorn the Sanctuary altar for December 24th service.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Our annual Christmas Worship Service will take place at 4:00 pm, on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, Christmas Eve. There is no service Christmas Day. The following Sunday, December 28th will be "Hymn-Sing Sunday."

PLEDGE CARDS: Please place your completed pledge cards into the collection plate, or hand to any LWCC Staff Member.

RECENT LWCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

November 2nd: 39 | November 9th: 35 | November 16th: 37 | November 23rd: 36

Last month, our LWCC **"Sock It To 'Em"** drive collected and donated **170 pairs** of socks for Veterans. Also, **214 pounds** of food was donated to those in need. Here is a Thank You Letter from our friends at **We Care**:



November 9, 2025

Dear Leisure World Community Church ,

On behalf of We Care and the many clients we serve, thank you for your recent donation of **214 Pounds of Canned Goods** on **10/20/2025**. We deeply appreciate your support. Because of you, we are able to provide a hand up to those in crisis. Together we keep people like Marissa housed, nourished and safe.

"When I was told my food benefits were being frozen by the government, I didn't know where to turn. The local school referred me to you and you have saved my family. The kids were so happy when we went to your food pantry and they got to help choose the food for the family. Thank you!"

No one should have to choose between paying the rent, feeding their family, or going to the doctor. And unfortunately, many people like Marissa are faced with this decision every day. Because of your support, we are able help those in need find resources and services so they are able to stay housed, safe and nourished.

We Care is the only homelessness prevention organization serving Northwest Orange County. Our case management team pays rent and utilities and provides groceries to keep people housed and stable. We provide additional supportive services to help them recover from the crisis and prevent further decline in their standard of living. It is our belief that by linking support to accountability, we can help families help themselves. Together we are filling temporary gaps that otherwise would have long-term catastrophic consequences.

Thank you again for your gift and thoughtfulness. *Your donation is 100% tax deductible as no goods or services were provided in return for your contribution.* If you would like to tour our offices or discuss additional ways to partner to prevent homelessness, please contact us. We'd love to show you how your investment is saving and changing lives for the better.

Appreciatively,

Anne

Anne Mallari
Chief Executive Officer
amallari@wecareorangecounty.org

Thank you for your generous hearts. Your donations are helping us to feed so many people in need.

P.S.: The holidays will soon be here. If you'd like to help us provide food and gifts for local families in need, please let us know!

www.wecareorangecounty.org

3788 Cerritos Avenue #B, Los Alamitos 90720 | P: 562-598-9790 | Non-Profit Tax ID # 33-0487729



November 30, 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

Loving God, you have woken me from sleep; the night is gone, the day is here. Enable me to follow Jesus on the Way and help me to bring the hope of God to those who are discouraged around me. And when I find myself discouraged, may your Holy Spirit open my eyes to your presence and your love. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy God, help me to lay aside the burdens of the day and rest in your peace that passes understanding. Amen.

