

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
562-431-2503

Sunday Service: 9:50 AM
Christmas Eve Service: 4:00 PM

December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve

Lessons & Carols

Rev. Johan Dodge



Holding Space

PRELUDE: "Silent Night" — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

GREETING AND WELCOME — Rev. Johan Dodge

Good Afternoon 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]

HYMN-CAROL: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" / "Adéste Fidèles"

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. *Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - u - ta - tion,*
4. *Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,*

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;

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!

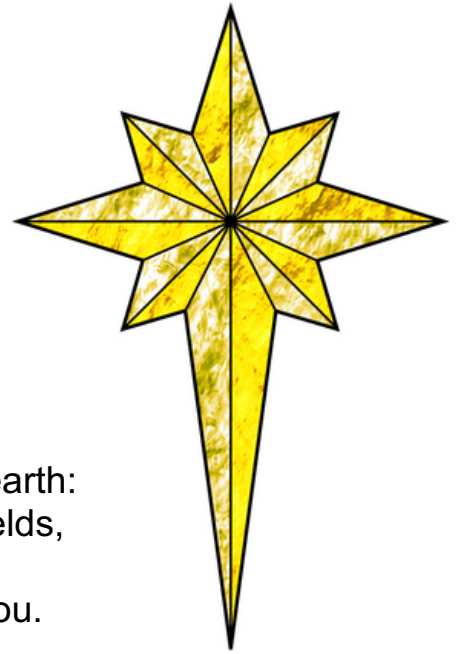
[please be seated]

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Jeanette Williams

Glorious God,
on this Christmas Eve,
we hear beloved stories of Bethlehem,
of shepherds and angels,
of Mary and Joseph,
and the infant Jesus, our Savior.

Is there yet a new story you invite us to?
A story to be learned from the heavens and the earth:
where the roar of the sea, the exultation of the fields,
and the joy of the trees are already raised
in a chorus of glad rejoicing, ready to welcome you.
Even if no ear may hear your coming,
help us hear the story of creation.

Then, with the whole cosmos, we will tell of your salvation,
declare your glory, and in a crescendo of praise,
bless your name: *Wonderful Counselor! Mighty God!*
Everlasting Love! Provider of Peace! Amen.



HYMN-CAROL: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
Christ, by high - est Heav'n a - dored; Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
Hail the Heav'n - born prince of peace! Hail the sun of right - eous - ness!

peace on Earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, — join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; — hail th'in-car-nate de - i - ty, —
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — born that we no more may die, —

13
with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim: "Christ is — born in Beth-le - hem!"
pleased on Earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
born to raise each child of Earth. born to — give us sec-ond birth.

17
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing: "Glo-ry — to the new-born king!"

SCRIPTURE — Lois Dimos

Isaiah 40:1-2a, 3-5, 10-11a; 49:13

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned.

A voice cries in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Behold the Lord will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on the afflicted.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Isaiah 9:2–7

A time of silence follows each petition [S]

God of steadfast love, we thank you in this joyful Christmastide for all the blessings we enjoy: the shelter of home and the comfort of family and friends; the company of the faithful with whom we celebrate Christ's coming; and for your love, which shines as a light in the darkness. For these and many other blessings besides, we offer our thanks and praise ... [S]

God of mercy, in this holy season, there are people in need of your tender mercies: we pray for those who are ill and for those who are recovering; for those whose sadness is made heavier by memories of Christmases past or by some present pain. We pray for those who do not have enough: enough food, enough money, enough companionship, enough hope. Because there is not yet peace on earth, we pray for those in harm's way. Protect them from war, violence, and cruel oppression. For these and many other needs, we offer our intercessions ... [S]

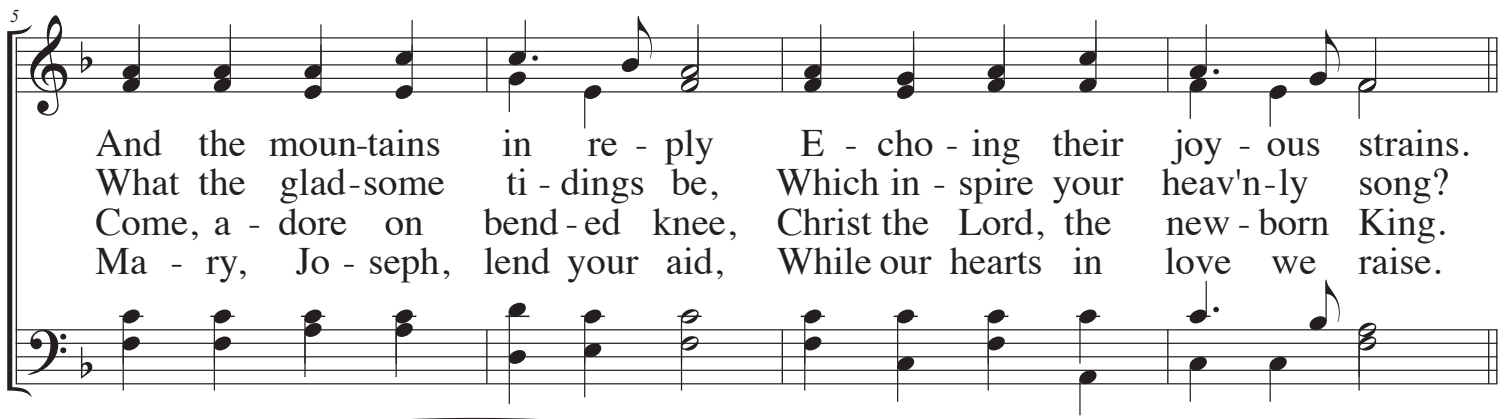
God of hope, through long ages, you have given to your people dreams and a vision of the time when there will be no more war, no more pain or sorrow, no more death. We pray this day for the time to be fulfilled, when we will be reconciled to one another, to all creation, to you. Fill us with hope as we work toward your new day. Give us the will to work for justice and peace and the courage to follow you into every place. We thank you for dreamers and visionaries who respond with imagination and joy to what you are doing in the church and in the world, as we remember them before you ... [S]

As a new year dawns, we know that all our times are in your hand. We entrust ourselves and those we love to your community of care. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN-CAROL: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See Him in a man - ger laid, Whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

5



And the moun-tains in re - ply E - cho - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heav'n-ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.

9



Glo - - - - - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!

15



Glo - - - - - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!

[please be seated]

SCRIPTURE — Jeanette Williams

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, with a message for a young maiden betrothed to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David; her name was Mary. The angel appeared and said to her, 'Hail, most favored! The Lord is with you!' But she was deeply troubled by what he said and wondered what this greeting might mean. Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for God has been gracious to you; you shall conceive and bear a son, and shall give him the name Jesus. He will be great; he will bear the title 'Son of the Most High'; the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David, and he will be the king over Israel for ever; his reign shall never end. 'How can this be?' said Mary. 'I am still a virgin.' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the child to be born will be called the 'Son of God'. Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant; as you have spoken it, so be it.' Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN-CAROL: "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth re-ceive her king.—
 Joy to the earth! The Sav-ior reigns. Let all our songs em-ploy,—
 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions prove—

— Let ev-'ry heart pre-pare him room, and
 — while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re-
 — the glo-ries of his right-eous-ness, and

heav'n and na-ture sing, and heav'n and na-ture
 peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing
 won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his

and heav'n and na-ture sing, and
 re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-
 and won-ders of his love, and

sing, and hea-ven, and hea-ven and na-ture sing.
 joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.
 love, and won-ders, and won-ders of his love.

heav'n and na-ture sing,
 peat the sound-ing joy,
 won-ders of his love,

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Lois Dimos

All creation teams with the abundance of God's provision: mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars, creeping things and flying birds! Our own lives bear witness to the abundance of God's love for creation. In joyful praise, we offer a portion of all that we have received from God's bounty and blessing.
Amen.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella" — LWCC Music Team:

Jennifer Rudy, *soprano* Dave Albulario, *tenor* Hannah Yi, *organist*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Jeanette Williams

In this gifting season, O God, we are grateful for the gift of your dear Son, who revealed your great love for us and the world. Receive, we pray, these gifts we return to you. May they be used in the service of your kin-dom.
Amen.

HYMN-CAROL: "The First Noel"

The first no-el the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
This star drew nigh un-to the north-west; o-ver Beth-le-
shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing their
east be-yond them far; and to the Earth it gave great
hem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and
sheep on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
light, and so it con-tin-ued both day and night.
stay, right o-ver the place where Je-sus lay.

18

No - el, no - el, no - el, no - el!

23

Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

SCRIPTURE — Lois Dimos

Luke 2:1, 3-7

In those days a decree was issued by the Emperor Augustus for a registration to be made throughout the Roman world ... For this purpose everyone made his way to his own town; and so Joseph went up to Judea from the town of Nazareth to Galilee, to register at the city of David, called Bethlehem, because he was of the house of David by descent; and with him went Mary who was betrothed to him. She was expecting a child, and while they were there the time came for her baby to be born, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them to lodge in the house.



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

mp *p* ,

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

mp *p* ,

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

hath in the sprung! mind, air, Of With Dis - pels with we be - hold it. The

mf *mf*

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,

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,

f *p* *pp*

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 ease our ev - 'ry bur - den, And show us how to Love.

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 ease our ev - 'ry bur - den, And show us how to Love.

SCRIPTURE — Jeanette Williams

Luke 2:8-13, 15-16

Now in this same district there were shepherds out in the fields, keeping watch through the night over their flock, when suddenly there stood before them an angel of the Lord and the splendor of the Lord shone round them. They were terror-stricken, but the angel said, “Do not be afraid; I have good news for you: there is great joy coming to the whole people. Today in the city of David a deliverer has been born to you—the Messiah, the Lord. And this is your sign; you will find the child wrapped in his swaddling clothes, in a manger.” All at once there was with the angel a great company of the heavenly host praising God and saying ... Gloria in excelsis Deo. After the angel had left them and gone into heaven the shepherds said to one another, “Come, we must go straight to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with all speed and found their way to Mary and Joseph; and the baby was lying in the manger.”

HOMILY: “Holding Space” — Rev. Johan Dodge

ANTHEM: “Would I Miss the Miracle?” — LWCC Music Team:

Jennifer Rudy, *soprano* Dave Albulario, *tenor* Hannah Yi, *organist*

THE CEREMONY OF CANDLE LIGHTING (*Lights Out*) — Rev. Johan Dodge

Let us pray:

O Lord and giver of life, who gave to all the hope of everlasting life, grant that in truth we may seek your divine goodness; to the end that, ever guarded by your power, and conducted by the light of truth, we may offer to you glory and thanksgiving, now and for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

It was dark, and Jesus had not come to them in the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night.

The darkness was on the face of the earth; it filled the eyes and nostrils and hearts of humanity until all cried for light lest the world be swallowed in death.

[PAUSE]

But the darkness grew beyond the cries, beyond the winds of the world, for the darkness was the chaos of souls lost in the landscape of confusion until light could illumine human hearts.

Candle Lighter: Alvin Knowles



The darkness was long, and ignorance struggles in layers of darkness at the edge of existence until GOD TOOK LIGHT FROM LIGHT and with it opened the eyes of his children.

And God saw that this light was good, for this was the new light of the world.

With this light you shall perceive all that is in my world. This light is truth, and it shall make you free.

In this light will your souls, your minds, your spirits, your hearts be illumined.

With this light you will not fear the terror by night or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that walks in darkness or the destruction that wastes at noon.

From the beginning the new light, because it was good, dispelled layers of darkness, and those given it carried the light as it grew in living intensity in the long portals of their minds. The light found what was dark and showed the way that had been lost in the shadow of Babel. Yet, humanity did not embrace the light, for despite its misery it had grown fond of the darkness and fought against those who carried the light of truth.

But the brave keep coming. Not the prisons, the tortures of tyrants, not death could stop the search for that which is, for what the light reveals. The world was divided between those who sought life and light and those who would extinguish the light.

Thus, the light was sent from God as a living being, and he came saying:

How blest are those who know their need of God; The kingdom of heaven is theirs. How blest are the sorrowful; They shall find consolation. How blest are the meek; They are the strength of the world, because they are the tabernacles of God in the world. They are the little ones. They do not know themselves. The whole earth depends upon them. These are the ones for whom it was all created in the first place. They shall inherit the earth!

They are the only ones who will ever be able to enjoy life altogether. They alone appreciate the world and the things that are in it. They are the only ones capable of understanding God's joy. All else are too weak for that joy.

They are the clean of heart. They see God. Their luster and freedom are without limit. They reach out for us to comprehend our misery and drown it in the tremendous expansion of their own innocence, that washes the world with its light.

Come, let us go into the body of that light. Let us live in the cleanliness of that song. Let us throw off the darkness of the world. For this is what all hearts pray for when they cry out: "Thy will be done."

We long for the time when this light, this liberty, this truth, this unspeakable joy, this indefatigable love will catch us all and never let us go, when we shall never fall back from the Paradise of the meek and pure of heart into the forums of prudence where the wise of this world go up and down in sorrow and set their traps for a happiness that cannot exist.

Then, I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had vanished. I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice proclaiming from the throne: Now at last God is among the people. God will dwell among them, and they shall be God's people, and God shall be with them. God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be an end to death, and to mourning, crying, pain; for the old order has passed away.

Behold, I am making all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. It will be my gift to the thirsty.

The glory of God gave to the city its light, and its lamp was the lamb. By its light shall the nations walk, and the kings of the earth shall bring into it all their splendor. The gates of city shall never be shut by day – and there will be no night.

Then he showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God to a manger in a broken world, a tiny room filled with a new light that warmed a world bitter with cold. This is my son, whose light is truth and will never fade.

HYMN-CAROL: "Stille Nacht / Silent Night"

The musical score is for the hymn "Stille Nacht / Silent Night". It is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first four measures of the hymn, and the second system contains the next four measures. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves, and the piano accompaniment is written on the grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are as follows:

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia.
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn - of re - deem - ing grace,

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, born, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ the Sav - iour is born! Je - sus, Lord at thy birth.

BENEDICTION— Rev. Johan Dodge

Deep peace of the running wave to you
 Deep peace of the flowing air to you
 Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
 Deep peace of the shining stars to you
 Deep peace of the watching shepherds to you
 Deep peace of Christ, the Light of the World to you.

Music Team: Jennifer Scoullar, *Soprano*
 Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

Dave Albulario, *Tenor* / *Music Dir.*
 John Fluker, *Pianist*

“Silent Night”

Traditional German Carol *STILLE NACHT*,
 Music by Franz Gruber Piano Arrangement
 by The Theorist

“Adéste Fidèles / O Come, All Ye Faithful”

18th Century English Hymn Carol
 Music and Words by John Francis Wade

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Music by Felix Mendelssohn, adapted by
 William H. Cummings, Words by Charles
 Wesley. Source: ChristmasCarolMusic.org

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

French Carol: *GLORIA*, Setting by Edward S.
 Barnes (before 1916), Translation by James
 Chadwick (1862), Public Domain, *Open*
Hymnal Project, 2005 Revision

“Joy to the World”

Tune: *ANTIOCH* by Georg Friedrich Händel
 adapted and arranged by Lowell Mason
 Words by Isaac Watts, alt.

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”

Music by Marc-Antoine Charpentier,
 Lyrics by Émile Blémont, tr. E. C. Nunn
 Arrangement by Peter Latona

“The First Noel / The First Nowell”

15th Century English Hymn Carol (Cornwall),
 First published in *Carols Ancient & Modern*
 (1823) edited by William Sandys

“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.

“Would I Miss the Miracle?”

Music by Douglas Nolan (BMI),
 Words by Pamela Stewart (BMI)
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 Music Corp.

“Silent Night”

Traditional German Carol *STILLE NACHT*,
 Music by Franz Gruber, alt., Words by Joseph
 Mohr; harm. by Carl H. Reinecke, English
 trans. John F. Young; “Night of Silence” Music
 and Words by Daniel Kantor

*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. 1872250

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Westcott – Nancy asks for prayers of general health and well-being for SuZan, an elderly family friend who is in a care facility, recovering from hip replacement surgery and a fractured arm.

Patricia Wolfe – Patricia asks for prayers for her daughter and son-in-law, Tiffany and Johnny. They are trying a second time to have a baby through IVF. Prayers that they are successful and that the embryo will go full term.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LITURGISTS: Each Sunday our Liturgists read aloud our scripture readings for Worship Service. As we prepare the schedule for the coming year, if you are interested in becoming a Liturgist, please speak with Phyllis Spencer.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR: Coffee with Pastor will **not** meet this week or next week. We will resume on Thursday, January 8, 2026.

HYMN-SING SUNDAY: Next Sunday, December 28th will be "Hymn-Sing Sunday."

RECENT LWCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

November 30th: 33 | December 7th: 35 | December 14th: 38 | December 21st: 40

POINSETTIAS GIVEN WITH LOVE

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LW Korean Community Church..... Friendship with LW Community Church

Mo Ashley..... Don & Rosie Ashley,
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Sandy Cardot..... Linda Haviland,
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Lois & Jim Dimos..... Our Sons: Nic, Tony, Jon, & Matt

Jeanette Williams & Fred Reker..... Robert McKinney Jr.,
and Peter Fernandez

Patty Jo Schmitz..... My Son: B.C. Keller

Marylee Thomsen..... The Thomsen Family

Shirley Bator..... Harold Loerch

Carol Graves..... Taylor White

