



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: **9:30 AM**
562-431-2503

January 11, 2026
The Baptism of Jesus

Rev. Johan Dodge



Sheep & Goats

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye Heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-5) begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is in the treble, and the bass line is in the bass. The second system (measures 6-9) continues the melody and bass line. The third system (measures 10-13) concludes the piece with a final chord in the treble and a sustained bass line. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Virginia Olejnik

In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep. God of life and new life your way is splendid and compelling! As Jesus heard you speak to him at his baptism, may we also hear you calling us your beloved, through Jesus Christ, your son and our sibling. Amen.

HYMN CAROL: "How Great Thou Art"

1. O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der Con-sid-er
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der And hear the
3. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion And take me

all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, When I look down from loft-y moun-tain
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble a-dor-

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in G minor (two flats) and common time (C). It consists of two systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-8) begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The melody is in the treble, and the bass line is in the bass. The second system (measures 9-16) continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The score includes three numbered verses of lyrics.

6

thun - der, Thy power through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played: grand - eur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze: Then sings my a - tion, And there pro - claim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

9

soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art! How great Thou art! Then sings my

13

soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Blessed God, In Baptism, you used the waters of life to remind us of your way of creation — drawing order out of chaos and light out of darkness. Trusting in your way of light and love, we bring you our prayers for the world.

We pray for the world, that all people — and all creation — may know they are beloved.

God, you show no partiality, yet we are not always as tolerant and accepting. Forgive our intolerance, and help us to see as you see, that we may be found acceptable in your sight through Jesus our Christ. Amen.

We pray for those who suffer, that they will know your love for them, and we may be bearers of comfort.

God, you show no partiality, yet we are not always as tolerant and accepting. Forgive our intolerance, and help us to see as you see, that we may be found acceptable in your sight through Jesus our Christ. Amen.

We pray for your creation, that it may return to a healthy balance and continue to nourish and nurture us.

God, you show no partiality, yet we are not always as tolerant and accepting. Forgive our intolerance, and help us to see as you see, that we may be found acceptable in your sight through Jesus our Christ. Amen.

We remember those who have gone before us and pray for those nearing death, that they may be at peace in your love for them.

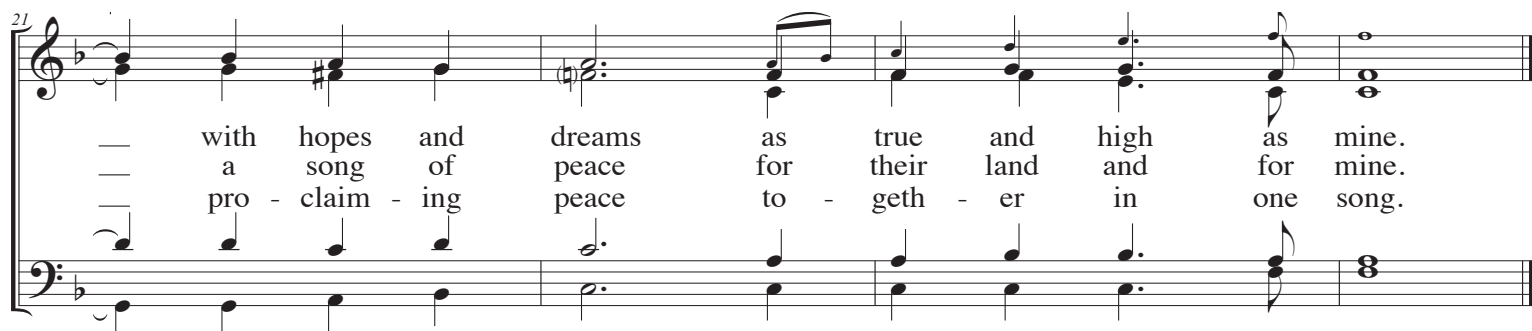
God, you show no partiality, yet we are not always as tolerant and accepting. Forgive our intolerance, and help us to see as you see, that we may be found acceptable in your sight through Jesus our Christ. Amen.

In one baptism with Christ and blessed by your Holy Spirit,
we praise and give you thanks, Holy One, for giving us spirit and breath. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN CAROL: "This Is My Song" ("Finlandia")

This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
My coun - try's skies are dom come to than the o - cean,
May truth and free - dom ev - ery na - tion;
a song of light peace beams for on lands a - far and mine.
and may peace a - bound where strife has leaf and pine;
9 This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
but that each may lands seek have to sun love light and too, clo - ver,
13 here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and a world are u - nit - ed, right - ing blue ev - ery mine.
17 but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
O a world my song, in thou God of its all the na - tions,
a hear u - nit - ed in its love for free - dom,



[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Virginia Olejnik

Still-speaking, still-wooing God; as these words from Scripture are read, may it be to us as if the heavens are opening, and we see your Spirit descending on us like a dove, revealing your love for us as your children. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Virginia Olejnik

Matthew 3:13–17 – *The Baptism of Jesus*

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Acts 10:34-43 – *Gentiles Hear the Good News*

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

MESSAGE: “Sheep & Goats” — Rev. Johan Dodge



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

We live in a world that teaches us we can have it our way. We have grown into communities that identified our way as the right way, the only way. We have taken to using our way as the scale by which to measure others and admit or reject them. Our Scriptures this week teach us that our way of exclusion is not the way of Jesus. Where we see division, God sees unity. Where do you currently see division in the world around you? How might the sheep and goats inform your choices in the days to come?

REFLECTION: “Above All” — John Fluker, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Virginia Olejnik

God gives us not only the genesis of life but the new life of transforming love shown to us through Jesus. Therefore, with generous hearers, let us give back a portion of what has already been given to us through the divine love of God.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Over the Rainbow” — Jennifer Rudy, *soprano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Virginia Olejnik

Great Gathering God, you draw us together into one body regardless of our backgrounds and conditions. Therefore, we praise you with our tithes and offerings. May they join with others to become a mighty river, bringing your peace and healing to the world. 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. _____

33

Let peace be - gin with me, let this be the mo - ment now;_____

41

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 God who calls us beloved speak blessings to you beloved siblings of Jesus, and empower you to bring that Good News to those who are in need of hearing it. **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*
John Fluker, *Pianist*

Dave Albulario, *Tenor / Music Dir.*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

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

"How Great Thou Art"
Traditional Swedish Melody *O STORE GUD*
Words by Carl Boberg and Stuart K. Hine

"This Is My Song" (*Finlandia*)
Music by Jean Sibelius, arr. from *The Hymnal*;
Words by Lloyd Stone (v. 1 & 2) & Georgia
Harkness (v. 3)

"Above All"
Music by Paul Baloche and Lenny LeBlanc,
Piano Improvisation by John Flucker

"Over the Rainbow"
Music by Harold Arlen,
Words by Yip Harburg

"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.*

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PRAYER REQUESTS

LWCC Volunteers – Our LWCC team of volunteers has been working very hard this week, coordinating with our friends at LW Korean CC to reorganize, and repurpose our spaces. Prayers for continued cooperation and renewed direction, as we move into the new year with a spirit of love and fellowship. May we truly live up to our name: **COMMUNITY Church!**

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and **FELLOWSHIP**: Today's 🌺 flowers are provided by the Fellowship Team, and Fellowship 🍪 refreshments are provided by Carol Graves. 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: ☕ On Thursday, January 15th at 10 AM, join us for "Coffee with Pastor." 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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Nancy Westcott and our Prayer Shawl Ministry continue to bless members of our community who are in need of prayer with our beautiful and comforting Prayer Shawls. Watch this space for more news as we embrace our friends with prayer and warmth in the coming months.

MONTHLY GIVING ENVELOPES: Please pick up your set of 12 Monthly Giving Envelopes on the table in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

RECENT LWCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

December 14th: 38 | December 21st: 40 | December 28th: 36 | January 4th: 23

January 11, 2026



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 make old things pass away and declare new things to be. As i am renewed this morning, help me to confirm my commitment to follow your way of love.

Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy One, you stretched out the heavens and spread out the earth, and given me this day that lived. I lift to you both my successes and failures to see your sheep and goats as one. Now may i sleep, sadge and secure, knowing that I am also your beloved child, in whom you are well pleased.

Amen.