



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

March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

Born From Above

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.

[please stand as you are able]

CALL TO WORSHIP: Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures

here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye Heav'n - ly

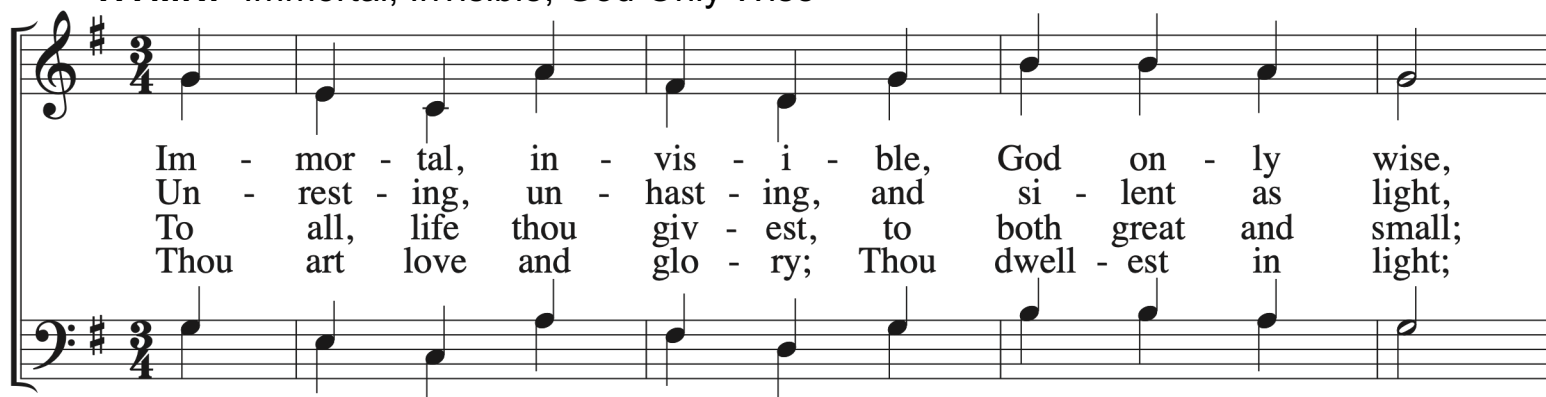
host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: — Phyllis Spencer

God our helper, our shade, our protector, you are able to give life to the dead, to call into being things that do not exist. We trust in your power to make all things new; to keep us in sunlight and moonlight, along rocky paths and pathways unknown; until all our going and coming brings us at last to your kindom promised in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



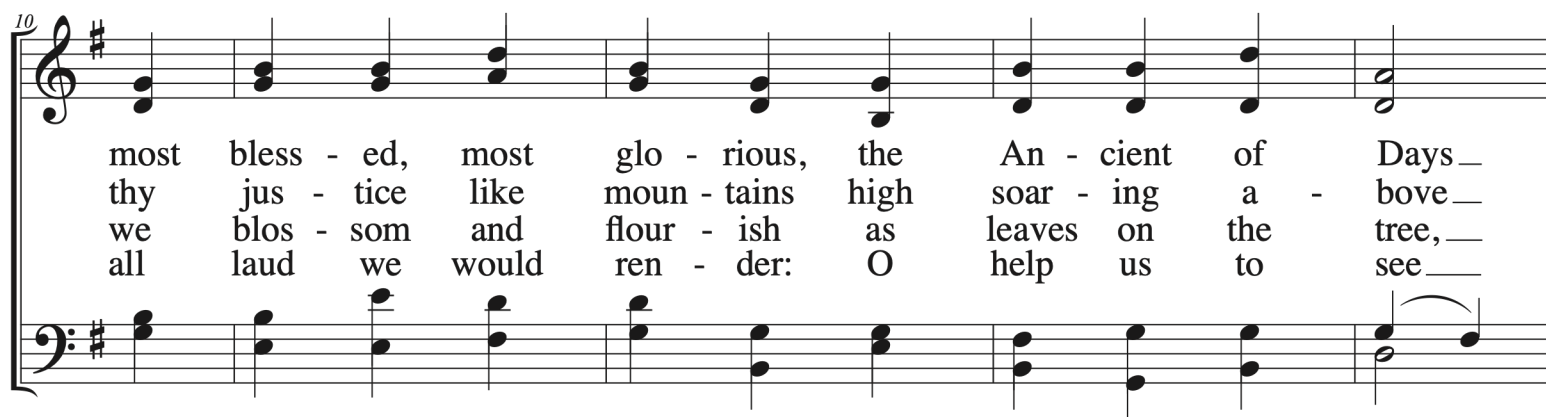
HYMN: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"



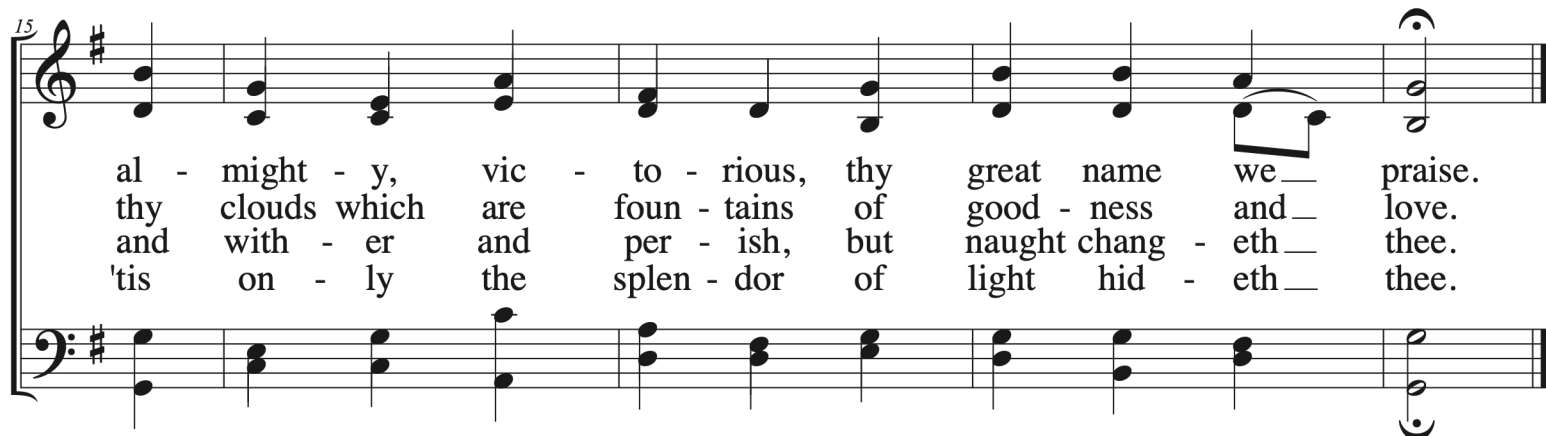
Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
Thou art love and glo - ry; Thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, e - ter - nal ly bright;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

God our Helper, we thank you for keeping our lives always in your care and protection and pray for any and all who are in harm's way.

For those walking in the midst of danger...

for those who are treading a slippery path...

for those exhausted and seeking relief...

for those who face a mountain of worry or debt or any other obstacles...

Where hope has grown tired and thin, lift our sights, so that we may see hope beyond hope, life beyond death, and you, lifting our eyes to see the way of love in the world. In the name of Jesus, who came to reveal our place in your heart, we pray.

Be Guardian and Guide, we pray,

setting all our feet on your paths of righteousness and peace.

We pray for those who are struggling with a new challenge or call...

with a major transition in life or livelihood...

with their faith and understanding...

with grief, ancient or new...

Where hope has grown tired and thin, lift our sights, so that we may see hope beyond hope, life beyond death, and you, lifting our eyes to see the way of love in the world. In the name of Jesus, who came to reveal our place in your heart, we pray.

Keep in your tender care and mercy, O God,

those who are sick in mind, body, or spirit...

those weighed down by depression or pain...

those recuperating from surgery or accident....

Protect not only us and those we love,

but also the whole wide world you so love.

In places of war, bring peace...

In places beset by natural disaster, bring calm and restoration...

Where there is unrest and injustice, make justice our aim.

Where hope has grown tired and thin, lift our sights, so that we may see hope beyond hope, life beyond death, and you, lifting our eyes to see the way of love in the world. In the name of Jesus, who came to reveal our place in your heart, we pray. Amen.



[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees, (on our knees)
praise the cup God

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees. (on our knees)
praise the cup God

When I fall on my knees with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O — God, have mer-cy on — me. (if — you please)

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Phyllis Spencer

God of signs and wonders, we come to your word again and again, seeking understanding and the new life it offers. By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds so that we may believe this testimony and have eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and Savior, we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Phyllis Spencer

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Call of Abram

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

John 3:1-17

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.



MESSAGE: “Born from Above” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Consider a time when you felt uncertain. Can you see how God was at work in your life at that time? What from Abraham and Sarais story, or from Nicodemus's story, is a help to you as you look for evidence of God's presence in your own life?

REFLECTION: “Be Thou My Vision” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

GOD’S TABLE | HOLY COMMUNION | THE EUCHARIST:

We offer both white and red grape juice. If you are afraid of spilling red grape juice, a limited number of cups with white grape juice are provided.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Here at Community Church, we celebrate “Open Communion.” Anyone who wishes to commune may come to God’s Table. You do not have to be sinless; God forgives you. You do not have to be perfect; God encourages you to grow. You need not belong to any church; God invites all people to this meal. It is enough to love and follow God with all your heart. This is what God asks us to do. Come to God’s Table in faith this day. Go from this place to live, and never be the same again. Let us commune as siblings in Christ.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Source of Love.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[Ushers, please come forward and distribute the elements]

Great God of the Coming Dawn, in each new day you surprise the earth with splendor. Your Spirit moves across the face of the waters and brings forth life. At the dawn of all things, in a garden you worked the earth, elbow deep in mud you fashioned us, gifted us, and gave us work to do.

Made from the earth, made by your hand, we forgot who we were. We forgot who you were and we tried to remake ourselves. We rejected your love and fell into selfishness. Yet even in our darkness, you continued to speak your vision of light and life. When we were slaves in a foreign land, you brought us out of our oppression, led us through the waters, and washed us up on the shores of a new life as a chosen people.

And you spoke of a day to come when you would come once more to save.
And so, we who live on the edge of this land look across the waters to the
horizon. We come to live on the edge of your new and promised day, and
we raise our voices with all the saints as we proclaim ...

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Source of Light and Love, _____

Heav - en and Earth are full of your glo - ry. _____ Ho - san - na in the

high - est, _____ Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of Love. _____

_____ Ho - san - na in the high - est, _____ ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, and blessed in your Son Jesus the Christ, whose coming was announced by wilderness prophets. In Jesus, you not only took our name but our flesh. He announced the new day and the acceptable year when blind folks would see, and poor folks would rejoice – when captives would be set free, and the oppressed would once more walk upright in liberty. In stories, he spoke of waiting bridesmaids and prodigal sons. With tears and compassion, he brought a dead man to life and gave a woman at a well the living water she sought. With anger he overturned tables and challenged the powerful. On the cross he revealed the power of weakness, and in the emptiness of the tomb he gave us a glimpse of your tomorrow that does not end in death.

On the night when he was betrayed, he sat at a table with his friends. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his followers and said: “Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way he took the cup, blessed it, served it to his followers, and said, “Drink from this every one of you. Do this to remember me.”

And so, we remember ... and so, we offer our praise and thanks, and our very lives in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Repeat after Cantor:

Christ was born, Christ is liv - ing, _____ Christ is born a - gain.

So, we call on you to send your Holy Spirit on us once more, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Let them be for us once more a reminder that we are Christ's body resurrected and alive in the world today. Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes again and we feast at his table.

With all the saints who share your name and our flesh, we raise this song, until we hear in fullness, the harmony of heaven:

God of the Dawn, Christ of the new Day Coming, Spirit who is Ever-Present, we recommit ourselves to your way this day. **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD:

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

THE SHARING OF THE CUP:

The bread which we have eaten is a sharing in the bread of Christ. The cup over which we give thanks is the sharing in the cup of Christ.

UNISON PRAYER:

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Phyllis Spencer

All that we have is a gift from God. In faith and gratitude, we return now a portion of what we have so abundantly received, as grateful heirs of the promises of God.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" — Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Phyllis Spencer

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude-for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray. 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-moment and live each mo-moment in peace e - ter - nal - ly;_____

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me._____

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 3/4. The hymn consists of eight lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are: '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-moment and live each mo-moment in peace e - ter - nal - ly;', and 'Let there be peace on Earth, and let it be - gin with me.' The score includes various musical notations such as whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes, rests, and bar lines. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words hyphenated across lines.

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

As you go out and come in, may God keep you by sunlight and moonlight;
may Christ encompass you with love; and may the Holy Spirit empower you.
Remember how much God loves this world and so, love the world in the
name of Christ, that your testimony becomes the good news. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH: "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Blest Be the Tie that Binds". It is written for a voice and piano arrangement. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "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 Flucker, *Pianist*

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

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"
Welsh Melody from *Canaidau y Cussegr*,
1839; adapt. by John Roberts, Words by
Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867 (1 Tim. 1:17)

"Let Us Break Bread Together"
Traditional African-American Spiritual, arr. by
William Farley Smith; Words based on Acts of
the Apostles 2:42; Adapt. & arr. © 1989 The
United Methodist Publishing House

"Be Thou My Vision"
8th Century Irish Melody *SLANE*;
Piano Arr. by Mark Hayes

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"
Music by Robert E. Kreutz
Words by Omer Westendorf
Partially arranged by David Albulario

"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

Carol Landenberger – Jeanette Williams’s sister, Carol, who lives in Oklahoma, is hospitalized with cancer related symptoms. Praying for comfort and wise care from medical professionals.

Linda Hildreth – Linda is in the hospital currently. No cards or phone calls at this time, but please send prayers for her comfort and care.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and **FELLOWSHIP**: Today’s 🌸 flowers are provided by Steve Martinez. Fellowship refreshments 🍪 are provided by Jenny Chang. See the new sign-up charts for 2026 to provide refreshments or cover the cost of altar flowers for future services. Altar flowers are \$35. See Phyllis Spencer to coordinate the arrangements.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR: ☕ On Thursday, March 5th 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.

THE UPPER ROOM: The new issue of *The Upper Room* devotional begins today. Pick up your copy in the narthex, and as you’re able, please consider an extra gift in the offering to help support our church subscription.



MARCH LANTERN NEWSLETTER: The March issue of our LWCC Lantern Newsletter is available in the narthex, and it’s BACK in full, marvelous **TECHNICOLO**R! Read all about it!

END-OF-YEAR STATEMENTS: If you wish to receive an End-of-Year Giving Statement of your 2025 donations, please see Phyllis Spencer.

RECENT LWCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

February 1st: 40 | February 8th: 29 | February 15th: 31 | February 22nd: 29

LENT: SHINE in the DARKNESS

March 1st	Mini Easter! Be Kind today!	March 5th	Give a stranger a compliment
March 2nd	Give a meal card to an unhoused person	March 6th	Share a meal with a friend
March 3rd	Let someone in front of you in line	March 7th	Visit someone
March 4th	Thank someone in service to others	March 8th	Mini Easter! Be Kind today!

March 1, 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 have given me the gift of this new day, and you send me out to live it fully and well. Help me to be attentive to your direction and leading. If you should call me to go in some direction, give me courage to try this new thing. If you present me with a mysterious truth or grace, help me to understand, or to seek understanding, with a sense of wonder and faith. Whatever this day may hold, I trust that you will keep me in all my comings and goings. In your Son's name, I pray. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Gracious God, as the evening comes and the light fades, I look for you even in the shadows. Your love and protection stay with me through the night hours, and I rest in your promises. For the day as it has been, I give you thanks. For the gift of rest, I offer a hymn of praise. You love me and the whole world so greatly that you offer us salvation. After a night of rest, bring me into the light of a new day. In gratitude, I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.