



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 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Telling Your Story

Rev. Johan Dodge

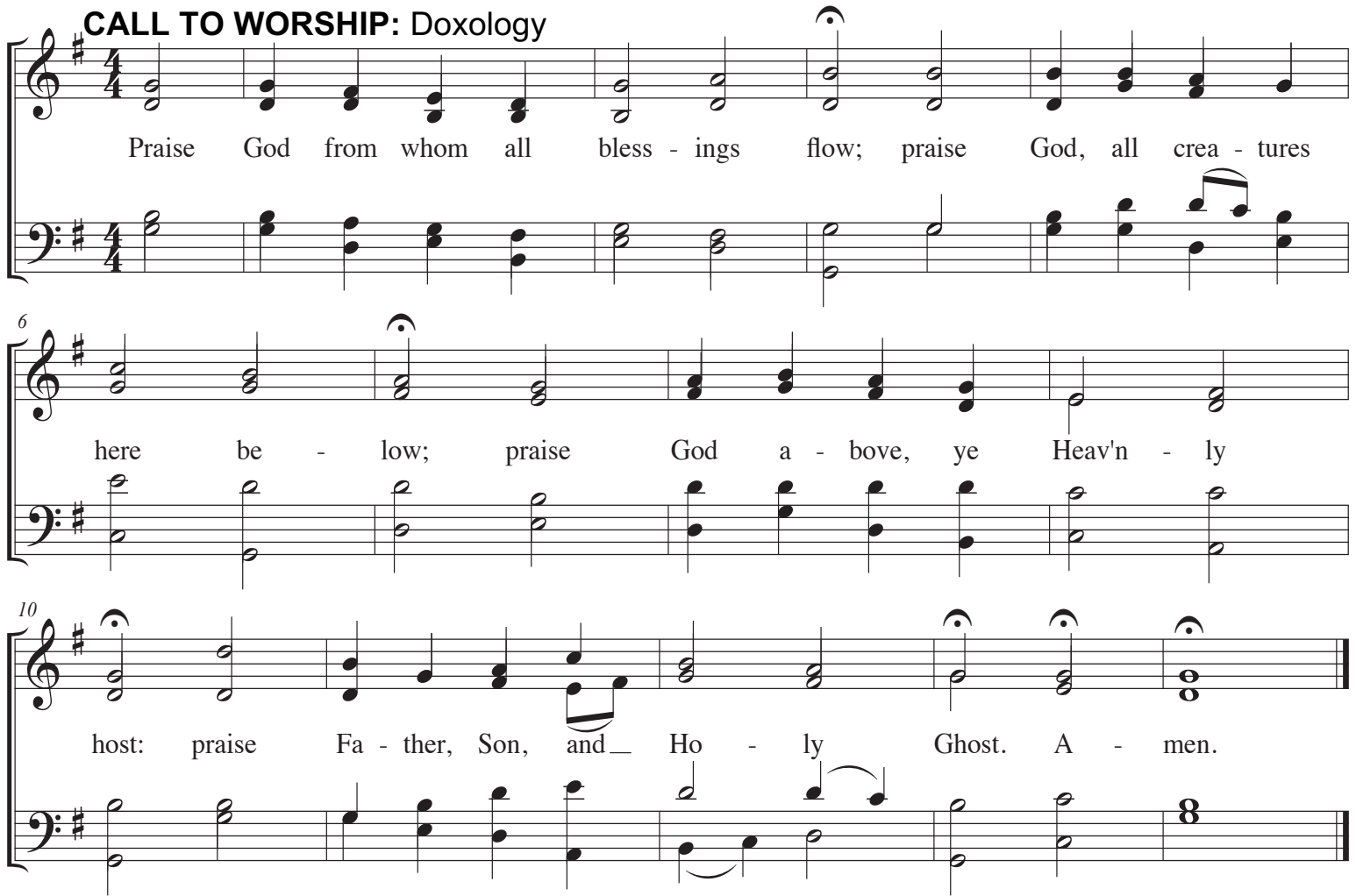


OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Johan Dodge

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 blessings flow; praise God, all creatures
here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye Heav'n - ly
host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system covers measures 1-5, the second system measures 6-9, and the third system measures 10-13. The lyrics are placed below the vocal staves, with some words aligned with specific notes or rests. The piece concludes with a final chord in the bass staff marked with a double bar line and a fermata.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Fred Wind

Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see? Bring us again and again into your light, your way of seeing the world around us. May your light transform us until we are utterly transformed and your fruit is being produced through us. In your light and your way of love we pray. Amen.

HYMN: "Jesus, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"



Je - sus, like a shep-herd lead us, — much we need thy ten - der care;
We are thine, do thou be - friend us, — be the guard-ian of our way;
Thou hast prom-ised to re - ceive us, — poor and low - ly though we be;
Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do thy will;

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system covers measures 1-8, and the second system covers measures 9-16. The lyrics are placed below the vocal staves, with some words aligned with specific notes or rests. The piece concludes with a final chord in the bass staff marked with a double bar line and a fermata.

5

in thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, — for our use thy folds pre - pare;
 keep thy flock, from sin de - fend us, — seek us when we go a - stray:
 thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, — grace to cleanse and pow'r to free:
 bless - ed Je - sus Christ a - mong us, — with thy love our bo - soms fill:

9

bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou has loved us, thine we are;
 hear, O hear us when we pray;
 let us ear - ly turn to thee;
 thou hast loved us, love us still;

14

bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou has loved us, thine we are.
 hear, O hear us when we pray.
 let us ea - ly turn to thee.
 thou hast loved us, love us still.

[please be seated]



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

[A time of silence is kept after each petition.]

Loving God, our faithful Shepherd, you have provided for us everything we need to thrive: for daily food, for guidance, and wisdom, for healing in injury and comfort in sorrow. Thank you for your abundant provision and walking with us through the wounds of this life.

Knowing your faithfulness in our lives, we bring you the lives of others and the cares of this world. Bring healing to those who are ill in body, or spirit. Bring release to those who are held captive by old hurts or new bonds that oppress and entangle. Bring freedom to those unjustly accused, relief to those burdened with debt, comfort to all who suffer abuse of any kind.

We pray for people living precariously in the midst of war. Protect, we pray, citizens and soldiers alike, and teach us to put away our weapons, taking up instead words of peace and reconciliation. By the power at work in the world through your Holy Spirit, break down the walls of hostility that we build so that we may learn to live together graciously.

We remember those living in the midst of drought and famine. We pray for rain to fall and crops to grow, and for generosity to overflow from our own hands and resources, until all your children receive their daily bread; until all your children have clean water to drink; until all your children have adequate shelter and medical care. Compel us to be better stewards of your creation so that our habitation is sustainable and responsible.

Loving God, help us to see the world as you see it; to see others as you see them; and to see ourselves rightly too. Pursue us with your goodness and faithful love until goodness and faithful love fills every heart and informs every action. We pray these things in the name of the one who came that we might see as you see loving God. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

The musical score is written for a hymn in 6/8 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three verses provided. The first verse is: "1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou". The second verse is: "2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voi - ces of truth thou". The third verse is: "3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth". The score ends with a double bar line.

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou
2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voi - ces of truth thou
3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth

4

hast for me; Place in my hands the won-der-ful key
 send - est clear; And while the wave - notes fall on my ear,
 ev' - ry-where; O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare

7

that shall un - clasp and set me free;
 ev' - ry - thing false will dis - ap - pear; Si - lent - ly now I
 love with thy chil - dren, thus to share;

10

wait for thee, rea - dy, my God, thy will to see;

13

O - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spi - rit di - vine! —

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Fred Wind

Loving God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your way of love becomes visible in our words and our deeds. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Fred Wind

Psalms 23

The Divine Shepherd, A Psalm of David

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

MESSAGE: “Telling Your Story” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

How comfortable are you sharing your story? Are you more comfortable sharing with strangers? More comfortable sharing with close friends? Who might you share your story with, not just your past but your present and your future? Who might you be present with to hear their story? Have you already had your eyes opened by the Holy Spirit as you have shared your story with someone, or while they have shared their story with you?

REFLECTION: “Jesus Loves Us All” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Fred Wind

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. Sharing what we have so abundantly received, we bring now our tithes and offerings to God, with gladness and gratitude.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Shepherd Me, O God” — Dave Albulario, *tenor*

Refrain:

Shep - herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life. _____

The musical notation is for a tenor part. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below the staff. The first line of music ends with a measure containing a whole note and a fermata. The second line begins with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a 2/4 time signature change, and then returns to 4/4. The piece concludes with a final whole note and a fermata.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Fred Wind

In gratitude, O God, we come to your table, and into your presence. For all that you have done for us, most especially for the life and teachings of Jesus who showed us the light of your way amidst our darkness, we offer our thanks and praise. We long to establish your way of light and love, and live to bear the fruit of your way in 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. _____

The hymn is written for a single melodic line in treble clef. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below the staff. The hymn is divided into four systems, with measure numbers 9, 16, and 25 indicated at the beginning of the second, third, and fourth systems respectively. The piece ends with a final whole note and a fermata.

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-moment and live each mo-moment in peace e - ter - nal - ly; _____

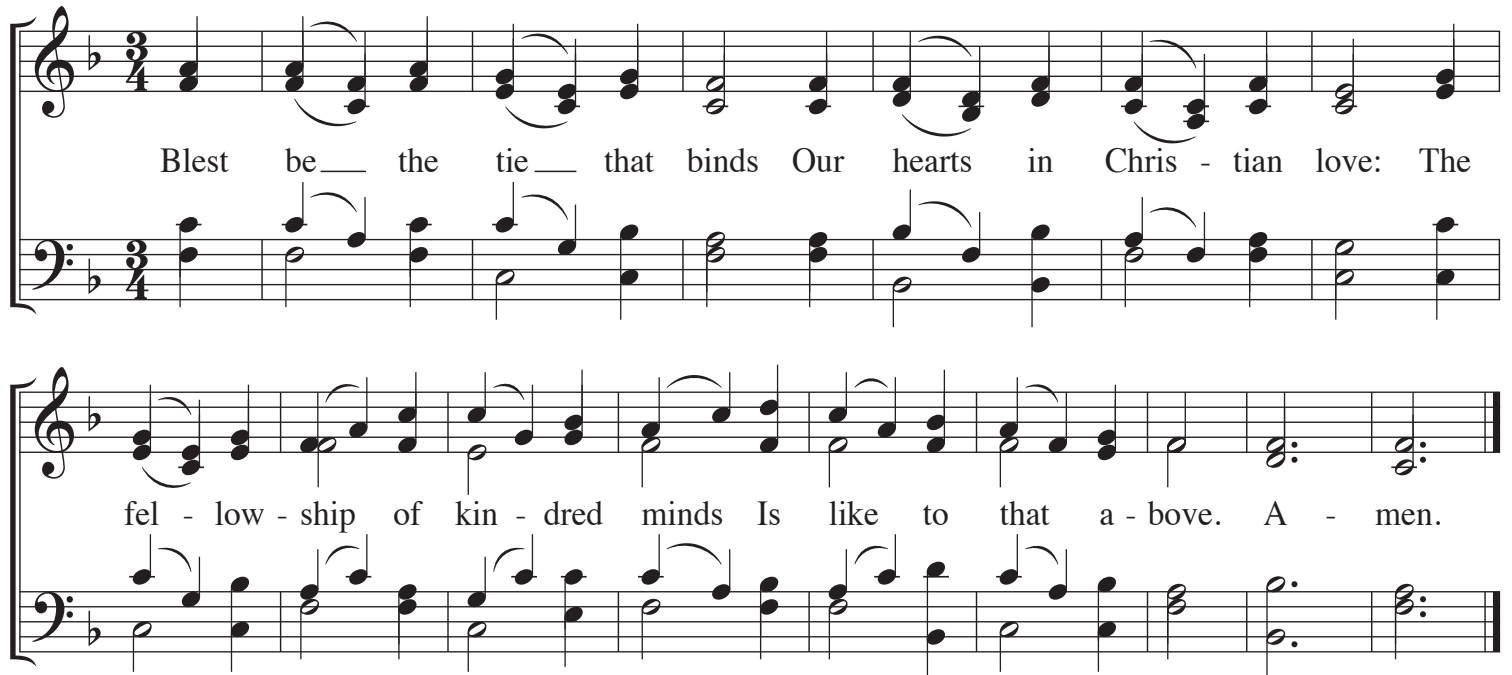
57

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

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

May the love of God pursue you, the light of Christ enfold you, and the Holy Spirit keep you; as you work to bear the fruit of the kingdom and shine the light of God into the darkness 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.*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

Jennifer Rudy, *Soprano*
John Fluker, *Pianist*

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

"Jesus, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"
Music by William B Bradbury
Words attr. to Dorothy Ann Thrupp
Public Domain

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"
Music and Words by Clara H. Scott
Public Domain. Source: Hymnary.org

"Jesus Loves Us All" ("Jesus Paid It All")
Music by John T. Grape;
Piano Arrangement by Mark Hayes

"Shepherd Me, O God"
Music and Words by Marty Haugen, based on
Psalm 23; © 1986, 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

"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

Lexi Brundell – This past week, Nancy Westcott's granddaughter, Lexi, was in an accident that totaled her car. She had to be extracted from the vehicle, but miraculously she walked away with only cuts and bruises. Prayers of gratitude for her safety, and comfort for her and her family.

Linda Hildreth – Continued prayers for Linda, who is now back at Cascade Home. Please send prayers for her comfort and care.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS and **FELLOWSHIP**: Today's 🌺 flowers are provided by Nancy Westcott. Fellowship refreshments 🍪 are provided by Carol Graves. See the 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 19th at 10 AM, join us for "Coffee with Pastor." Every Thursday, you are invited to 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.

FOOD DONATIONS: Deepest gratitude for your kindness and continuing food donations. To streamline the process, we need boxes that hold 10 to 14 cans of soup and are deep enough to hold cans and/or cereal boxes (about 7-11 inches deep), with flaps to close when filled. When donating items, please unload bags if you have time, and place food items on the table. Presently, we are accepting only food items and personal hygiene products. ***Thanks again for all you do to support those in need.***

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 15th: 31 | February 22nd: 29 | March 1st: 40 | March 8th: 30

LENT: SHINE in the DARKNESS

March 15th	Mini Easter! Be Kind today!	March 19th	Share a meal with a friend
March 16th	Let someone in front of you in line	March 20th	Visit someone
March 17th	Thank someone in service to others	March 21st	Tell someone you're grateful for them
March 18th	Give a stranger a compliment	March 22nd	Mini Easter! Be Kind today!



March 15, 2026



GROW
PRAY
STUDY

Notes from the Service

[illegible]

My Prayers this week:

Prayer Journal

Use this prayer in your time with God each day.

Household Prayer: Morning

Good morning, God. The day has dawned with the gift of darkness, and I awaken to the reality that the light of your love has yet to dawn fully into the world around me. I know you are with me in this and every darkness so I know I can lean on your light as I seek to be your love. Thank you for this new day. Shepard me this day, lead me into pleasant places, and give me the provisions that I will need if I find myself enveloped in times of darkness. Whenever the cup of gladness overflows, help me to recognize that it is filled with your light and love. In praise of your love for creation I begin this day. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

With the night, Loving God, comes rest, and a chance for my soul to be restored. You are with me in this and every darkness, so I will not be afraid. For all I have seen with my own eyes today, for all you have helped me see through the actions of others, I give you thanks. For those things that I did not notice: signs of beauty and kindness, evidence of your love, I pray you will help me to slow down and see as you see so I can see the world more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly tomorrow, and even day hence. In the name of Jesus who came to show us the way. Amen.