



**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

July 19, 2026
8th Sunday After Pentecost

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

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 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 — Jeanette Williams

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In the times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN: "Nearer, My God, to Thee"

Near - er, my God, to thee, near - er to thee!
 Though like the wan - der - er, the sun gone down,
 There let the way ap - pear, un - to Heav'n;
 Then, with my wak - ing thoughts bright with thy praise,
 Or if, on joy - ful wing cleav - ing the sky,

E'en though it be a cross that rais - eth me,
 dark - ness be o - ver me, my rest a stone;
 all that thou send - est me, in mer - cy giv'n;
 out of my ston - y griefs Beth - el I'll raise;
 sun, moon, and stars for - got, up - ward I fly,

still all my song shall be,
 yet in my dreams I'd be
 an - gels to beck - on me
 so by my woes to be
 still all my song shall be, } near - er, my God to thee;

near - er, my God, to thee, near - er to thee!

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Gracious Creator, Sower of life, you know the complicated histories that have carried us to this moment. You know the names of all our generations, for you are there in each story of falling away and turning home, in our long years of wandering, and in the shining moments when we recognize your presence and find the grace to abide in your love.

Mother-Father God, thank you for making us siblings, coheirs with Christ, siblings of one another, bearing witness with the Spirit that we are the children of God.

Incarnate One, all of creation is groaning, and so we dare to ask that you would come to us; be born again in us. In the midst of our boredom, our self-congratulations, our closeted vision, startle us with the tearing, the cry, the first breath of life that will not be restrained. Strengthen us in the fruits of the Spirit, and teach us to be your living prayer for the world.

Mother-Father God, thank you for making us siblings, coheirs with Christ, siblings of one another, bearing witness with the Spirit that we are the children of God.

We pray for all who flee from pasts by which they are haunted. We lift up all who feel abandoned by a future for which they had hoped. We plead for all who do not know that they are loved and chosen.

Mother-Father God, thank you for making us siblings, coheirs with Christ, siblings of one another, bearing witness with the Spirit that we are the children of God.

Help us to trust that you are at work in every mingled heart, every conflicted community. Nourish the life you plant within us, that we might keep seeding the world with your truth and your grace; in the name of Jesus who came to reveal your love for all of your very good creation. **Amen.**

[please stand as you are able]



HYMN: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Refrain

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, — com - ing for to car - ry me home.

Swing low, — sweet char - i - ot, — com - ing for to car - ry me home. *Fine*

Verses

1. I looked o - ver Jor - dan, — and what did I see, —
 2. If you get — there — be - fore — I do, —
 3. I'm some - times — up — and some - times down, —

com - ing for to car - ry me home? — A band — of an - gels
 com - ing for to car - ry me home. — Tell all — my friends I'm
 com - ing for to car - ry me home. — But still — my soul feels

To Refrain

com - ing af - ter me, — com - ing for to car - ry me home.
 com - ing there — too, — com - ing for to car - ry me home.
 Hea - ven - ly — bound, com - ing for to car - ry me home.

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Jeanette Williams

Harvesting God, as we receive your Word this day, lead our hearts to openness and acceptance of your way of love. By your Holy Spirit we pray.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE — Jeanette Williams

Romans 8:12-30

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Matthew 13:24-30

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

²⁴ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

MESSAGE: “How Did We Get Here?” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

How has your understanding of suffering in relation to God’s will and desire for you changed over time? How have you experienced the presence of God through the Holy Spirit amidst times of suffering? Where might the Spirit be calling you out of suffering and into God’s marvelous light?

REFLECTION: “Peace Like a River” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Jeanette Williams

Friends, the Scriptures tell us that all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. Given such a divine affirmation, let us give offerings of thanksgiving! Amen.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Right Here Waiting” — Chris Wade, *baritone*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Jeanette Williams

Loving and ever-present God, receive these tithes and offerings, our worship, and our lives to your service; in Jesus’ name 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 - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly;_____

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

BLESSING — Rev. Johan Dodge

Siblings, go forth as beloved children of God, living in the hope of God's presence and promise; and may God our parent, Christ our brother, and the Spirit who gives us breath bless you and keep you this day and forevermore.
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 four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 3/4. 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." The score consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a vocal staff and a piano staff. The second system also has a vocal staff and a piano staff. The piano part features a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

Music Team: Chris Wade, *Baritone Emeritus* Jennifer Rudy, *Soprano*
Hannah Yi, *Pianist* John Fluker, *Pianist*
Dave Albulario, *Tenor/Music Dir.*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Shirley Bator – Shirley is recovering at home from something she calls “a bunch of hullabaloo for nothing.” Prayers for less hullabaloo, and more good health.

Jim Dimos – Continued prayers for Lois Dimos and her family as they mourn the passing of **Jim Dimos**. Blessings of comfort and strength to the Dimos Family, and peaceful rest for Jim. Watch this space for memorial information.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS & FELLOWSHIP: Today's 🌸 flowers and 🍪 Fellowship refreshments are provided by Jeanette Williams. See the sign-up charts to provide refreshments or cover the cost of altar flowers for future services. Altar flowers are \$25. See Phyllis Spencer to coordinate arrangements.

AUGUST COMMUNION SUNDAY: Looking ahead, there will be **no** Communion on the first Sunday of August. Instead, **Communion Sunday** will take place on **Sunday, August 9, 2026**.

RECENT LWCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

June 14th: 38 | June 21st: 38 | June 28th: 34 | July 5th: 31

IMPORTANT LWCC MEMBERSHIP SESSION COMING UP:

LWCC MEMBERSHIP COFFEE WITH PASTOR: This **THURSDAY, July 23rd** at **10:00 AM**, those becoming regular members of Community Church this season are asked to meet with Pastor Johan during our weekly “Coffee with Pastor” time. All are welcome for a relaxed time of conversation over coffee or tea.



July 19, 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

Holy One, I Awake into a sense of your presence with me. From time to time today, remind me that each day is a journey into the unknown but that there is nowhere I can go where you are not with me. Teach me your way, O Lord. That I may walk in your truth. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you God, for the gift of this day. You have been my comfort and help, my strength and my shield. As I drift into sleep, I praise your name and rest in the knowledge that you are always with me. Amen.