



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 26, 2026
9th Sunday After Pentecost

WHAT
CAN I
DO?

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 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Fred Wind

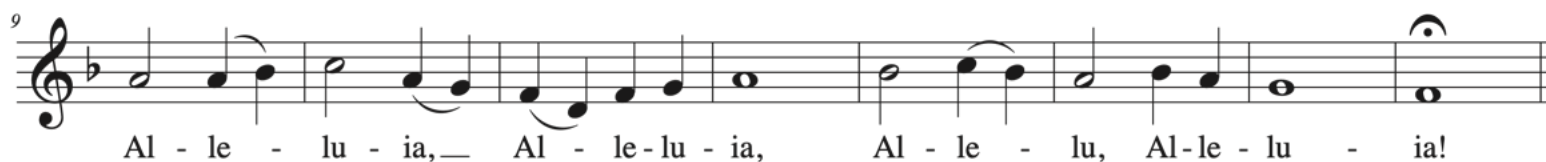
Holy God, we try to fix and fasten you, but you will not be stayed. You are love in motion: always breathing us into being, calling us to serve, sustaining us in the wilderness. Come to us as the morning breaks. Soften what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts until we turn to you with abandon, for we pray in the way of Jesus and through the Spirit that gives us life. Amen.



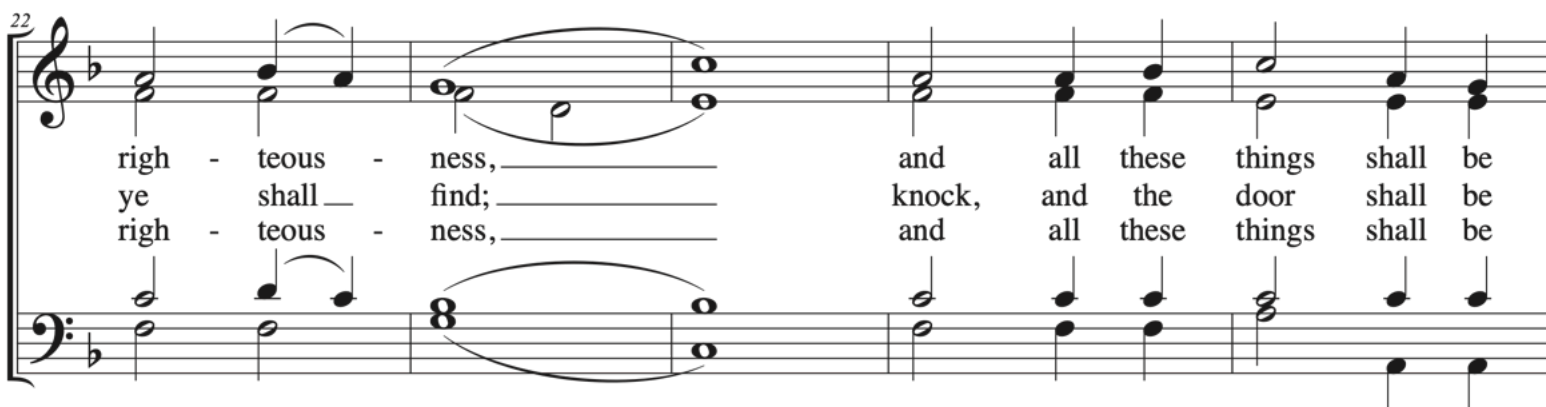
HYMN: "Seek Ye First"

Cantor Sings: *"Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, Alleluia."* then ...

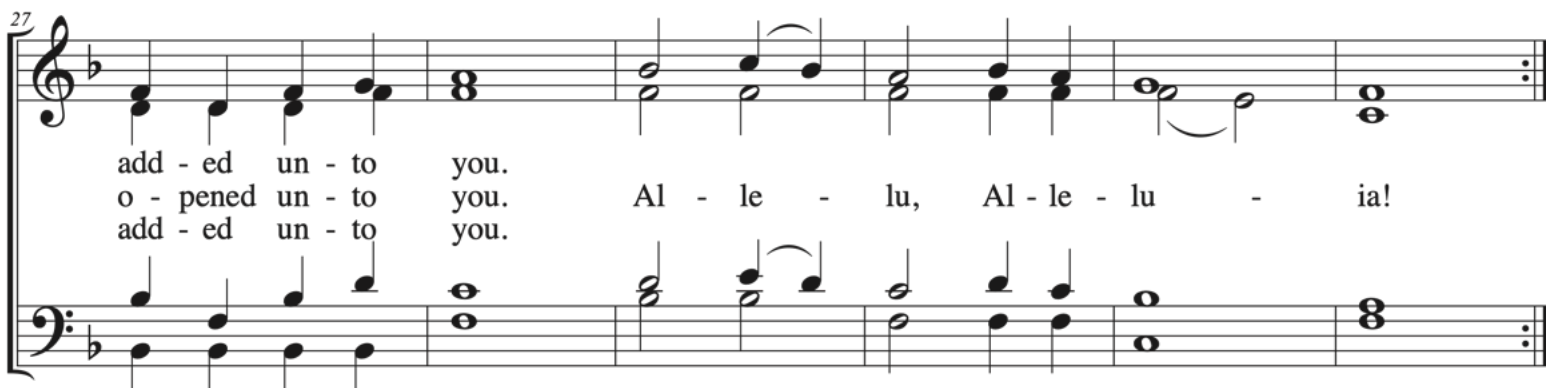
ALL Sing:



Seek ye first the kingdom of Heav'n and seek God's
Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and God's
Seek ye first the kingdom of Heav'n, and God's



right - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
ye shall find; and knock, and all these things shall be
right - teous - ness, and all these things shall be



add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!
add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

We are on a journey of becoming and we do not fully know how to pray. Yet the Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes with sights too deep for words. Therefore, let us offer our prayers, confident that the Spirit prays in us according to God's will.

Holy God, you have blessed us with understanding and the ability to choose the good; give to all leaders and people a vision of your world made whole, the wisdom to pursue it, and the will to accomplish it. You have given your world the gift of love to transform our suffering into healing and restoration. Be with all who suffer hardship, distress, or need, and help us to honor you by serving together, as we grow in the way of compassion and mercy.

Jesus shows us the way to live our life in you, and so we keep coming—because we want to live. Receive us now in our frailty, our complacency, and our desire.

We pray for your creation the world over, that we would be seed and yeast where life has grown barren and heavy. May the life we discover in you bind us to each other and to the world that you have deemed your very good creation, for no need is beyond the strength of your call when we are gathered in your name, and no child is expendable.

Jesus shows us the way to live our life in you, and so we keep coming—because we want to live. Receive us now in our frailty, our complacency, and our desire.

We pray for friends and strangers in the grip of addiction. Make us able companions for each other, and bless us with work that bears fruit.

Jesus shows us the way to live our life in you, and so we keep coming—because we want to live. Receive us now in our frailty, our complacency, and our desire.

We pray for unsettled economies and those whose needs are overlooked in the choices of the powerful. May we, who know privilege, bear our responsibilities with open hearts and open hands.

Jesus shows us the way to live our life in you, and so we keep coming—because we want to live. Receive us now in our frailty, our complacency, and our desire.

We pray for all who stand at the threshold of life: for your children who are soon to be born and your children who are soon to go home.

Jesus shows us the way to live our life in you, and so we keep coming—because we want to live. Receive us now in our frailty, our complacency, and our desire.

We give thanks for new faces to love, ideas to ponder, work to do — and we marvel at the sturdy friendships and persistent memories that sustain us when the way is difficult. May each be a reminder of your love and your provision.

Jesus shows us the way to live our life in you, and so we keep coming—because we want to live. Receive us now in our frailty, our complacency, and our desire.

We thank you for the gift of song — for notes that speak when words fail. Give strength to leaders who call forth the best from us and invite us to breathe together.

Jesus shows us the way to live our life in you, and so we keep coming—because we want to live. Receive us now in our frailty, our complacency, and our desire.

Holy One, keep calling us into the world — your beloved kindom — as seed and yeast and treasure. Equip each of us for the challenges we will face until we learn to worship in the most unlikely places, for you are the source of our song and the well from which we pray, wherever we are planted.

By the power of your Spirit we make our prayer today. Amen.



[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing"

I'm gon - na sing
pray
clap when the Spir - it says
move
shout

sing,
pray,
clap,
move,
shout,

The first system of the hymn is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "I'm gon - na sing pray clap when the Spir - it says move shout". The music features a simple, repetitive melody with a final phrase that is repeated twice.

I'm gon - na sing
pray
clap when the Spit - it says
move
shout

sing,
pray,
clap,
move,
shout,

The second system of the hymn continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "I'm gon - na sing pray clap when the Spit - it says move shout". The music features a simple, repetitive melody with a final phrase that is repeated twice.

I'm gon - na sing
pray
clap when the Spir - it says
move
shout

sing,
pray,
clap, and re -
move,
shout,

The third system of the hymn continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "I'm gon - na sing pray clap when the Spir - it says move shout". The music features a simple, repetitive melody with a final phrase that is repeated twice.

joice in the Spir - it of the Lord.

The fourth system of the hymn concludes the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "joice in the Spir - it of the Lord." The music features a simple, repetitive melody with a final phrase that is repeated twice.

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Fred Wind

Enlightening God, you have given us a dream of your world made whole, a heavenly realm that is here in heart and hand, and is ours to choose each day. May our smallest acts of love when transformed in you Spirit, grow abundantly into a realm of flourishing for all. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Fred Wind

Romans 8:31-39

God's Love in Christ Jesus

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

The Parable of the Yeast

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

Three Parables

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

MESSAGE: “What Can I Do?” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

No matter how many times we read it, mustard does not grow up to become a tree. How does this metaphor move us definitively out of reading the Bible literally? When we embrace the greater complexity of the Scriptures, how does this greater complexity inform our faith journey and the task of establishing the Kindom of God? Mustard grows with wild and reckless abandon. Mustard is one of those plants that is a crop in some fields and a weed in others. How does the nature of mustard inform your sense of place and purpose?

REFLECTION: “There's Something About That Name” — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Fred Wind

The kindom of heaven is like a mustard seed; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches. Let us offer our gifts this day with grateful and expectant hearts for the kindom of heaven is here and can be in hand. **Amen.**

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “I Lift Up Mine Eyes” — Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Fred Wind

Holy One, receive these offerings as you receive our lives. Gather our false starts and uncertain efforts, our generosity and our reluctance. Enliven us with your breath and make your purposes known, that our lives might show forth your glory, for we pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of your Holy Spirit. 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.____

25 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

Siblings of Christ and Children of God, go — as seed and yeast, willing to give yourself completely to the larger purposes of God. Go — as fisher folk and treasure seekers, pouring out your days in search of hidden grace. And may God, who knows your heart, continue to lead you into life that you may serve with abandon and joy. **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*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Patty Jo Schmitz – Patty Jo’s son, Richard Keller, passed away on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. Unbeknownst to PattyJo, Richard had been battling cancer and was in chemo treatment. He is survived by his wife, Theresa. Prayers of strength and comfort for Patty Jo and her family, and peaceful rest for Richard.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS & FELLOWSHIP: Today’s 🌸 flowers and 🍪 Fellowship refreshments are provided by Mo Ashley. 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 28th: 34 | July 5th: 31 | July 12th: 37 | July 19th: 34

IMPORTANT LWCC MEMBERSHIP SESSION COMING UP:

LWCC MEMBERSHIP COFFEE WITH PASTOR: This **THURSDAY, July 30th** 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.

DUO CONCERT! Join us next Sunday, August 2, 2026, at 4:00 PM, when violinist 🎻 **Er-Gene Kahng** joins forces with our very own resident pianist, 🎹 **Hannah Yi** in an afternoon recital featuring the beautiful music of Somei Satoh, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Edvard Grieg. Flyers are in the narthex – please take some and share with friends and neighbors – **ALL ARE WELCOME!** *Suggested donation: \$10*

July 26, 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

God of ferment, God of Life, as I recall the night's unsettled dreams ... as I foresee the day's demands ... come to me — in the desires of my heart, in the anger of the excluded, in all I might discount — until I find you everywhere, until your holy love leavens every impulse, for I pray in the name of Jesus, whose surprising call to follow the way continues. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Joy of my heart, thank you for this day's unexpected turns: for insight when I was befuddled and the light of laughter throughout. As I rest this evening, open my heart as I close my eyes. Let me experience your unruly love that overcomes every obstacle in the path before me. Amen.