



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

August 16, 2026
12th Sunday After Pentecost

Rev. Johan Dodge

**Pray
the
Power**



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

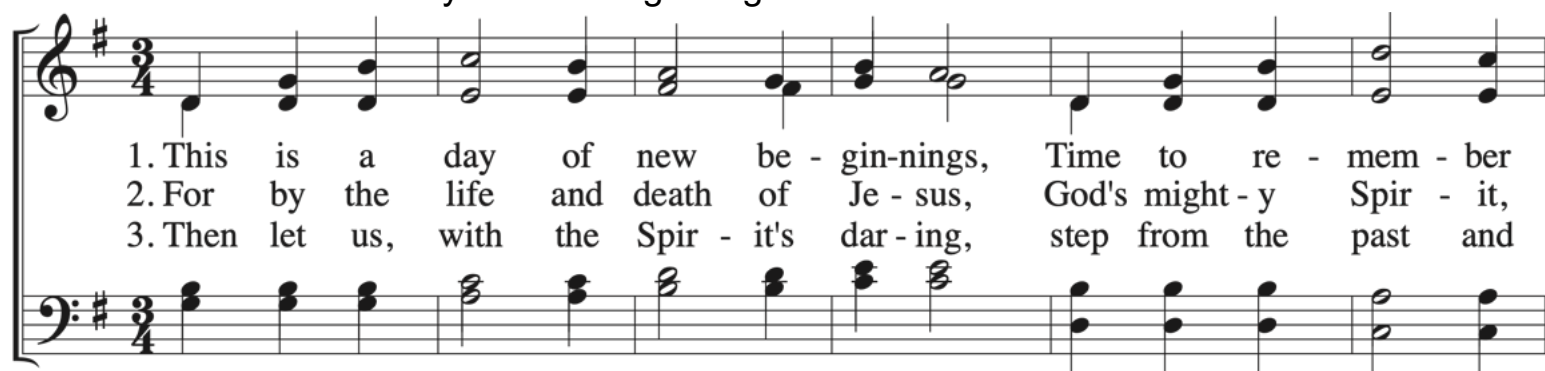
host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: "The Prayer of Jesus" — Marylee Thomsen

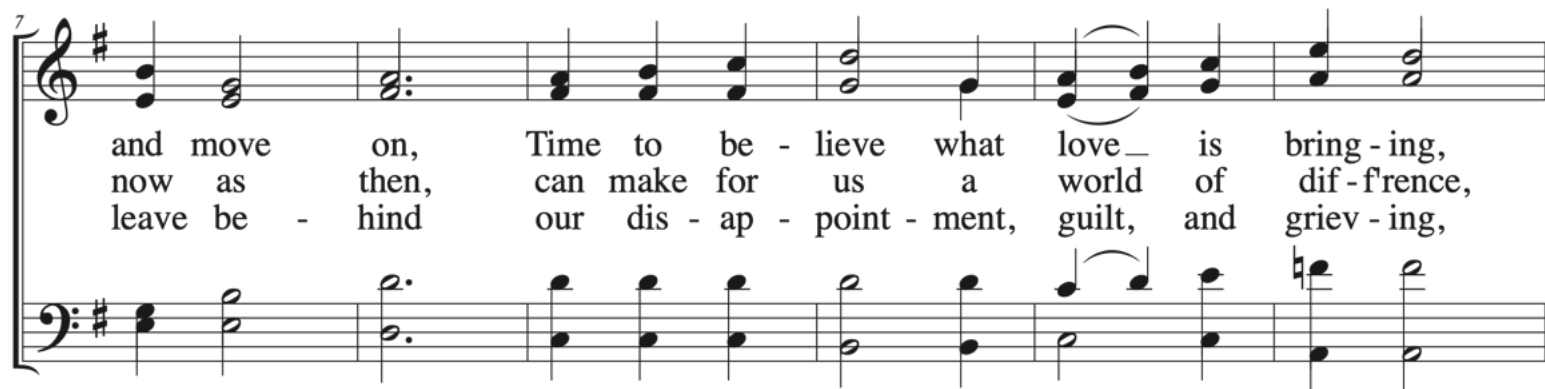
(Translated from Aramaic, the language of first-century Galilee and Judea.)

**O cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration,
soften the ground of our being and carve out a
space within us where your Presence can abide.
Fill us with your creativity so that we may be
empowered to bear the fruit of your mission.
Let each of our actions bear fruit in accordance with our desire.
Endow us with the wisdom to produce and share
what each being needs to grow and flourish.
Untie the tangled threads of destiny that bind us, as we release
others from the entanglement of past mistakes.
Do not let us be seduced by that which would
divert us from our true purpose,
but illuminate the opportunities of the present moment.
For you are the ground and the fruitful vision, the birth, power, and
fulfillment, as all is gathered and made whole once again.
And So It Is!**

HYMN: "This Is a Day of New Beginnings"



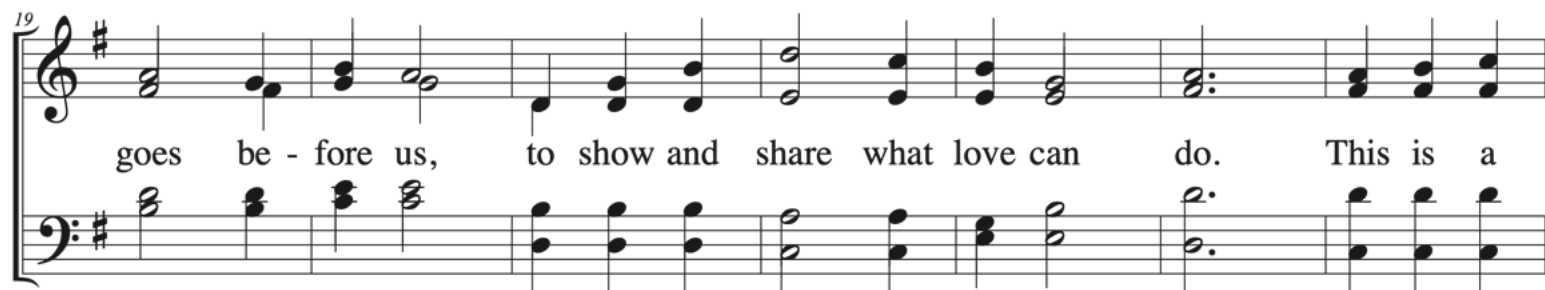
1. This is a day of new be - gin-nings, Time to re - mem - ber
2. For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y Spir - it,
3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the past and



and move on, Time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
now as then, can make for us a world of dif - f'rence,
leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,



Lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
as faith and hope are born a - gain. 4. Christ is a - live, and
Seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.



goes be - fore us, to show and share what love can do. This is a



day of new be - gin-nings; Our God is mak - ing all things new.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

God of mercy and healing, you call us to look past the divisions we see and break down the walls we have built. We turn to you yet again, confident that your provision is abundantly more than enough to preserve and redeem the world.

Loving Ever-present God, we are here to be a community of reconciliation. May the Spirit guide us in the way of Jesus, to gather the outcast and the lost, to heal the wounds of fear and distrust, and bless the banished.

That we may replicate your reconciliation, model your mercy, and herald your healing for all.

Loving Ever-present God, we are here to be a community of reconciliation. May the Spirit guide us in the way of Jesus, to gather the outcast and the lost, to heal the wounds of fear and distrust, and bless the banished.

For unity and harmony to flow freely among your creatures and throughout your creation.

Loving Ever-present God, we are here to be a community of reconciliation. May the Spirit guide us in the way of Jesus, to gather the outcast and the lost, to heal the wounds of fear and distrust, and bless the banished.

For reconciliation and new beginnings among estranged families, races, nations, and peoples.

Loving Ever-present God, we are here to be a community of reconciliation. May the Spirit guide us in the way of Jesus, to gather the outcast and the lost, to heal the wounds of fear and distrust, and bless the banished.

For healing for those who are tormented, rejected, marginalized, fearful, forgotten, cast off.

Loving Ever-present God, we are here to be a community of reconciliation. May the Spirit guide us in the way of Jesus, to gather the outcast and the lost, to heal the wounds of fear and distrust, and bless the banished.

We stand now together ready to bring your way of love into the world around us. May your Spirit call us and guide us. **Amen.**

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "O Spirit of the Living God"

O Spir - it of the liv - ing God, thou light and fire di -
Blow, wind of God! With wis - dom blow un - til our minds are
Teach us to ut - ter liv - ing words of hope which all may
So shall we know the pow'r of Christ, God's love to the world he

vine, de - scend up - on thy church once more, and make it tru - ly thine.
free from mists of er - ror, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee.
hear, the lan - guage all may un - der - stand when love speaks loud and clear;
gave; so shall we rise from death to life which soars be - yond the grave;

Fill it with love and joy and pow'r, with kind - ness and with
Burn, wing - ed fire! In - spire our lips with flam - ing love and
'til ev - 'ry age and race and clime shall blend their creeds in
and Earth shall win true ho - li - ness, which makes thy chil - dren

peace; 'til Christ shall dwell in hu - man hearts, and sin and sor - row cease.
zeal, to preach to all thy great good news, God's glo - rious com - mon - weal.
one, and Earth shall form one fam - i - ly by whom thy will is done.
whole; 'til, per - fect - ed by thee, we reach cre - a - tion's glo - rious goal!

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Marylee Thomsen

Ever-present God, whose compassion embraces everyone, give us your words of life that our hearts may increase in your way of love as we turn to your word together. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Marylee Thomsen

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? ²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

MESSAGE: "Pray the Power" — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

When have you succeeded in resisting the forces that seek to conform us to this world? Where do you see yourself now caught in conformity and what might God be calling you to do about it?

REFLECTION: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" — Hannah Yi, *pianist*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Marylee Thomsen

Siblings, we come to present our very lives to God. As an act of accepting the mantle of *Child of God*, let us turn our gifts over to God.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" — Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Marylee Thomsen

Loving God, receive the fruits of our labor and the dedication of our lives. 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

And now, as we go forth, may the ever-present God, who is at the side of every creature in creation, renew your lives so that we may be agents of God's loving transformation. **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 piano part consists of chords and single notes in the right and left hands.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Doris Smith – Doris's son-in-law, Ace, passed away last week at the age of 60. He is survived by his wife and three daughters. Prayers of comfort and strength for Doris's loving family, as they grieve the loss of their dear father and husband.

Marina Tesla – Marina had surgery this past Friday afternoon and is recovering in the hospital. Prayers for healing and speedy recovery.

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.

IMPORTANT LWCC MEMBERSHIP SESSION COMING UP:

LWCC MEMBERSHIP COFFEE WITH PASTOR: This **Thursday, August 20th** 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.

RECENT LWCC WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

July 19th: 34 | July 26th: 37 | August 2nd: 34 | August 9th: 33

August 16, 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

Loving God, bless me and make your face clear to me that I may see your will for my life and know the power of your love. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Merciful God, I have not done all that I could have to bring your way of love into the world this day. I have found myself more tired and even exhausted as I consider the tasks ahead. Help me to know that as I rest this day, I am not alone for you have called us all to be about your way of love. Amen.