



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 23, 2026
13th Sunday After Pentecost

Rev. Johan Dodge

Upside DOWN



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

Loving God, as we turn to the words of love you have inspired, we look for the light in these words and in your Spirit, we seek guidance for bring that light into the world, manifesting your love in physical ways and that change the lives of those in need around us. May we hear your words of love now. Amen.

HYMN: "God Will Take Care of You"

1. Be not dis - mayed what - e'er be - tide, God will take care of you; —
2. Through days of toil — when heart doth fail,
3. No mat - ter what may be the test,

Be - neath God's wings of love a - bide,
When dan - gers fierce your path as - sail, God will take care of you.
Lean, wea - ry one, up - on God's breast,

9

God will take care of you, Through ev - 'ry day, o'er all the way;

13

God will take care__ of you God will take care__ of__

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

God of all, thank you for hearing these prayers: For the human family with whom we share this world — those closest to us and those whose names we will never know —

We give you thanks and ask your help in living into our identity as your children.

For the world we share with all creation — the plants and animals we see each day and the wilderness we have never seen —

We give you thanks and ask for your help in living into our identity as stewards of your earth.

For local, national, and international leaders — those whose policies we appreciate and those with whom we struggle —

We give you thanks and ask that you be at their side, guiding them to act in justice and mercy.

Hear the prayers we lift in silence or out loud in this moment. For the joys and concerns that occupy our thoughts today — those we name aloud and those we ponder inwardly —

[You are invited to name individuals or situations either to yourself or out loud.]

Amen.

We give you thanks and ask that you would be at their side, guiding them to recognize that their help is in the name of God who called forth order from chaos. Amen.

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "Amazing Grace"

A - maz - ing — grace! How sweet the sound that
I sing the — sad of heart to cheer, for
Through man - y — dan - gers, toils and snares, I
Our God has — prom - ised good to me, The
When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

loved and set me free! — I once — was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; — how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; — 'tis grace — hath brought me
Word my hope se - cures; — God will — my — shield and
shin - ing as the sun, — we've no — less — days to

now — am — found; was blind, but now I see. —
grace — ap - pear the hour I — first be - lieved. —
safe — thus — far, and grace will lead me home. —
por - tion — be, as long as — life en - dures. —
sing — God's praise than when we'd first be - gun. —

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Jeanette Williams

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 — Jeanette Williams

Romans 12:1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-23

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. ²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

MESSAGE: "Upside DOMU" — 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 have you experienced the Spirit guiding you to turn the world upside down? Where have you succeeded? What might it take for you to succeed where you have previously failed? How might we as a community work to overturn this world and turn the world into God's Kingdom?

REFLECTION: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” — John Fluker, *pianist*
(*playing his own arrangement*)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Jeanette Williams

Siblings, God has blessed us with many gifts and Jesus has shown us in the way of love that these gifts are not ours alone. Let us then dedicate our lives and our gifts to the way of Jesus.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: “Sing a New Song” — Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Jeanette Williams

Gracious God, we thank you for the gifts that you have given to us to share: prophetic acts of service, teaching and leading, encouragement, diligence, and cheerfulness, giving without strings attached. Increase our generosity, compassion, and prophetic courage so that we may continue to be your body in and for 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._____

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

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

May God who restores, Christ who calls, and the Spirit who empowers remind us that we are called to be one body in Christ and we do not walk or work alone. May we experience the presence and power of God's love as we go out together to turn this self-focused world upside down. **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.* Jennifer Rudy, *Soprano*
John Fluker, *Pianist* Hannah Yi, *Pianist*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Families in Grief – Please continue to pray for families grieving loss:

♥ Don Cole ♥ Noemi Albulario ♥ Linda Hildreth ♥ Jim Dimos ♥ Matti Kline
♥ Richard Keller, Patty Jo Schmitz's son ♥ Ace, Doris Smith's son-in-law

Prince Pierson – Prayers of healing for Prince Pierson who has been unable to attend church due to sores on his feet that are slow to heal. His wife, Lorna is caring for him at home. They miss their friends at LWCC.

Marina Tesla – Marina Tesla is recovering from back surgery and is in treatment for other health issues. Prayers for healing and speedy recovery.

Lewis Hildreth – Prayers for continued good care for Lewis at Home on Cascade.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS & FELLOWSHIP: Today's 🌸 flowers are provided by Betty Ku. Today's 🍪 Fellowship refreshments are provided by Trent Chin. 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 27th** 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 26th: 37 | August 2nd: 34 | August 9th: 33 | August 16th: 39



August 23, 2026



GROW
PRAY
STUDY

Notes from the Service

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

My Prayers this week:

Prayer Journal

Use this prayer in your time with God each day.

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, thank you for the gift of this new day. You have blessed me in so many ways in days that have come before. Today I will look and listen for signs of your joy and gladness present in my life, in the lives of others, and in the beautiful world you garden. As I begin this day, I pray that you will strengthen my soul and that whatever your purpose for me will be fulfilled in faithfulness and love. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

God of my salvation, preserve anyone in danger this night; reach out to anyone who is in trouble. Give us the quiet rest that comes from knowing you are above everything, watching over us with steadfast love. I pray that today, in some word I spoke, in some act of care I offered, Christ was lifted up as Lord and Savior. Continue to transform me so that I may discern what you find good and acceptable and perfect. Help me to dream always your own vision of a world in full bloom, verdant with joy and gladness, teeming with thanksgiving and justice. At the close of this day, I entrust myself, and all those I love, to your care and keeping. In Jesus' name. Amen.