



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

September 6, 2026

Season of Creation: 1st Sunday

**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR NAME TAG IN
THE NARTHEX BEFORE SERVICE TODAY.
IF YOU'RE VISITING, WE'LL MAKE ONE FOR YOU!**

Rev. Johan Dodge

Light From Darkness



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" — Virginia Olejnik

(Translated directly 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: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, Earth and Heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
 Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

5
 hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, ope - ning to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, bind - ing all with - in its span.

9
 Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 God, cre - a - tor, Christ our bro - ther, all who live in love are thine;
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;

13
 Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day!
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.
 joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward, in the tri - umph song of life.

[please be seated]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Ever-present all-loving God, you are the source of all creation and have revealed through Jesus your way of love for us and for all of your very good creation. Receive now these prayers:

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

Your creation needs health ...

Your creation needs peace ...

Your creation needs hope ...

Your creation needs blessing ...

Your creation needs your presence ...

Loving God, the need is so great but we are willing to be put to use. Guide us to be your way of love. **Amen.**

[please stand as you are able]

HYMN: "How Great Thou Art"

1. O Love my God, when I in awe-some won-der Con-sid-er
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der And hear the
3. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion And take me

all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, When I look down from loft-y moun-tain
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble a-dor-

thun-der, Thy power through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played:
grand-eur, And hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze: Then sings my
a-tion, And there pro-claim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

9

soul, my Lov-ing God, to Thee: How great Thou art! — How great Thou art! — Then sings my

13

soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee: — How great Thou art! How great — Thou art! —

[please be seated]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Virginia Olejnik

Holy Spirit, as your word is read and preached, abide with us as we are gathered here, opening minds to increase understanding, opening hearts to bind us together in your love. In the way of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE — Virginia Olejnik

Genesis 1:1–5

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Romans 13:8-14

Love for One Another

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

An Urgent Appeal

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15-20

Reproving Another Who Sins

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one.

¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

MESSAGE: “Light from Darkness” — Rev. Johan Dodge

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION — Rev. Johan Dodge

Where do you find darkness around you? How do you currently bring light to the darkness? Where might the Spirit be coming to bring light to darkness in some part of your life?

REFLECTION: “I See a Light” — Chris Wade, *pianist*

HOLY COMMUNION | THE EUCHARIST— Rev. Johan Dodge

We offer both white and red grape juice. If you are afraid of spilling red grape juice, a limited number of cups with white grape juice are provided.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION — Rev. Johan Dodge

We gather round this table now as fellow creatures, at God’s calling flock, huddle, shoal or swarm ... Drawn together to receive identity: more than our communities, or even our churches, can be alone. Like the Earth, we do not own Christ’s table which feeds and sustains us like our common home, it is ‘ours’ only when we share. Yet here, we’re welcome: like those friends Christ first gathered. Welcome for justice, fulfillment and love. Welcome, with prophets, publicans with eco-warriors and dodgy characters with those you’d expect and those you’d rather weren’t here. Called to re-celebrate; to be a work of God repurposed as friends of Jesus refreshed by bread and wine through human hands, from Earth’s own self *on* whom, *and* whom, and *as* whom we feed.

God is in you.

We are in God.

Lift up your hearts.

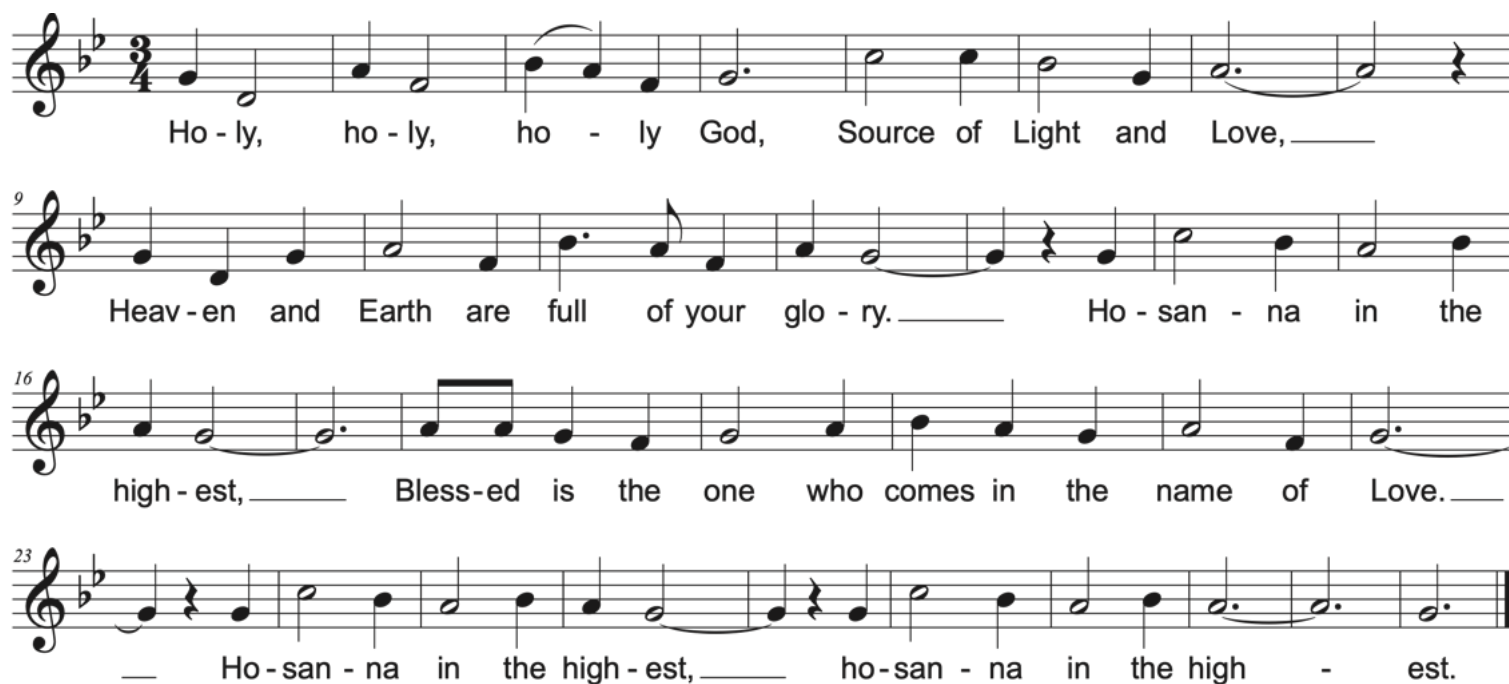
We lift up our hearts in love.

Let us give thanks to the
Source of all love.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[Ushers, please come forward and distribute the elements]

Throughout all ages, as mountains dance and trees applaud the cries of birth are also loud for all to hear and tend. Your Sabbath and Jubilee insist: "Refreshment and rest for all Creation". But we made exceptions. Your People sought milk and honey, yet injustice laid lands waste. Your prophets: priests and farmers call us to account. Yet your loving signs of warning fall often by the wayside. And greed and pride insist on harmful choices knowingly embraced. Yet still comes Christ Jesus, friend of wildlife, beloved of the poor, scolding the seas, teaching with trees, and God's wildness in Wind. When with Christ we shoulder the cross of healing; we shudder at the disaster of truth denied by power; and yet ... risen and present through food and faith Christ calls us afresh to care for a damaged world. And so, as God's people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Source of Light and Love, _____

9 Heav - en and Earth are full of your glo - ry. _____ Ho - san - na in the

16 high - est, _____ Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of Love. _____

23 _____ Ho - san - na in the high - est, _____ ho - san - na in the high - est.

BLESSING OF BREAD & WINE:

God, Sustainer, gusting and fluttering life with the good things of the Earth: food and drink we *offer*; flesh and blood we *are*. As Jesus did, so do we: We break this bread. We share this cup. We trust that Jesus revealed your way of living in this world — a commonwealth of shared living as the body of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit.

And now, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ was born, Christ is liv - ing, _____ Christ is born a - gain.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Make them be for us the symbols of your love and desire for us to be your body knit together to build the new creation, your preferred future for us.

By your Spirit help the body of Christ be one. Help the left hand and the right hand work as one in ministry to all the world. Help the eyes and the ears sense your present and coming kingdom. Bring the blessing of the diversity of the body to bear fruit until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING — Virginia Olejnik

Paul's counsel to the church in Rome was this: "Owe no one anything, except to love one another." SO come, let us love one another and all in God's very good creation, by sharing what we have been given so needs are met and the love of God is proclaimed.

[Ushers, please come forward]

OFFERTORY: "Go Share the Love" — Dave Albulario, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING — Virginia Olejnik

Ever-present God, just as Jesus promised to be among us when two or three are gathered in his name, be among us now, that these offerings may become instruments of your love and justice. In the way of Jesus we pray. 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.____

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

May the Creator who made the light, the Christ who is the light, and the Spirit who ignites the light within abide with you and all creation now and always. **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.

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR NAME TAG IN
EDGAR FELLOWSHIP HALL BEFORE LEAVING TODAY.
BLESSINGS BE.**

Music Team:

Dave Albulario, *Tenor/Music Dir.*
Chris Wade, *Pianist Emeritus*

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

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Nanci Luczak – Nanci's 101-year-old mother had a fall last week, and Nanci recently traveled to the Bay Area to care for her. Prayers for speedy recovery and good caregivers going forward.

Pat Wolfe – Prayers for Pat's daughter, Tiffany, who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Amelia Wynnona Gren on Monday, August 24th! Prayers as well for Pat's successful radiation treatment – she's halfway through.

Jenny Chang – Jenny was recently in the hospital suffering from dehydration. She is recovering at home. Prayers for speedy recovery.

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

♥ **Don Coles** ♥ **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 here at LWCC.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FLOWERS & FELLOWSHIP: Today's 🌸 flowers are provided by Jeanette Williams. 🍪 Fellowship refreshments are provided by Pastor Yong and our siblings at Leisure World Korean Community Church. 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.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: On Sunday, October 4, 2026, our Worship will take place out on the front patio of the church. Observing the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and his love for animals, service will include "**Blessing of the Animals.**" ***Leisure World residents are invited to bring their well-behaved pets for a blessing.*** Dogs must be leashed according to LW rules. Use good judgment regarding the use of kennels & cages. Please be responsible for your pet's behavior. You're welcome to bring a photo of your pet instead, if you prefer.

IMPORTANT LWCC MEMBERSHIP SESSION COMING UP:

LWCC MEMBERSHIP COFFEE WITH PASTOR: This **Thursday, September 10th** 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:

August 9th: 33 | August 16th: 39 | August 23rd: 28 | August 30th: 27

September 6, 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. Thank you for the invitation to travel faithfully through your creation today. May your Spirit guide me to follow your way of love throughout this day and keep me from stumbling. Amen.

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

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, Awake or asleep you are present with me, and I am grateful you love me so. I turn my whole heart to you in love, and my heart is full of love and care for my family and friends and for all those whom you have made my neighbor. Amen.