



**LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST**

**December 6, 2020
5th Sunday of Extended Advent**



La Jolla United Methodist Church

6063 La Jolla Boulevard

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www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

Prelude: “Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus” Arr. Victor Labenske

Musician(s): Jennifer Lai, Keyboard

Welcome - Pastor Lea

Opening Music: UMH 192 “There’s a Spirit in the Air” vs. 1-3, 5

Musician(s): Lisa Corpron, Jayson Coleman, Jennifer Lai

1. There’s a Spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.
2. Lose your shyness, find your tongue;
tell the world what God has done.
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow’s life today!
3. When believers break the bread,
when a hungry child is fed,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.
5. When a stranger’s not alone,
when the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

Prayers of the People

A Pastor will begin a time of prayer and name those for whom our congregation is praying. A time of silence will indicate when you may share one name or very short phrase to add.

Pastoral Prayer

Advent Blessing - Lighting the Candle of Faith

Our to-do lists are long, even in these strange, messy days. We want to do things right, we want to be safe, *and* we want to be able to enjoy the season. As we rush about, preparing our homes and schedules for the coming feast, we are reminded that we also have work to do to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend the relationships, and to get ready for Christ’s arrival.

Still today, John the Baptist and the prophet Isaiah remind us of this work: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open the door into our lives.

We light these candles as a sign of our faith that the God we worship is not far from us and that we can clear the way for that God to come and dwell with us. We light these candles in faith that Christ will arrive among us.

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

Message: “Bushwhacking”

Response to the Word

Confession, Assurance, and Peace

Liturgist: Persuading God, we confess that we have not listened to the voice crying in the wilderness. We have not prepared the way for you. We have not proclaimed your arrival. Call to us again, we pray, as we confess, repent, and seek to draw near to you.

Pastor: The God of hope calls us from the exile of our sin with the good news of restoration; builds a highway through the wilderness; comes to us and brings us home. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Liturgist: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory: “I Hear a Prophet Callin” by Pepper Choplin

Musician(s): Jayson Coleman, Solo Jennifer Lai, Keyboard

Thanksgiving and Holy Communion

*Communion elements have been placed on chairs before the beginning of Worship.
Please wait until directed before opening and receiving.*

Closing Music: UMH 202 “People Look East”

Musician(s): Lisa Corpron, Jayson Coleman, Jennifer Lai

1. People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.

4. Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Benediction

LJUMC Ministry Team

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Rev. Lea Booth, Pastor of Discipleship;
Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb, Administrative Assistant;
Joyce Drozda, NS & Church Accountant; Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director;
Bridget Musante, NS Executive Director; Tina Wynn, NS Program Director