



**LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST**

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent



La Jolla United Methodist Church

6063 La Jolla Boulevard

La Jolla, CA 92037

(858) 454-7108

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

Prelude: “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” - Gregg Sewell

Musician: Jennifer Lai

Welcome

Opening Music: “How Can We Name a Love” UMH 111

Musicians: Joyce Theilacker, Lisa Corpron, Jayson Coleman, Randy Seward, Jennifer Lai

1. How can we name a Love that wakens heart and mind,
indwelling all we know or think or do or seek or find?
Within our daily world, in every human face,
Love’s echoes sound and God is found, hid in the commonplace.
2. If we awoke to life built on a rock of care
that asked no great reward but firm, assured, was simply there,
we can, with parents’ names, describe, and thus adore,
Love unconfined, a father kind, a mother strong and sure.
3. When people share a task, and strength and skills unite
in projects old or new, to make or do with shared delight,
our Friend and Partner’s will is better understood,
that all should share, create, and care, and know that life is good.
4. So in a hundred names, each day we all can meet
a presence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.
Yet every name we see, shines in a brighter sun:
In Christ alone is Love full grown and life and hope begun.

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

Blessing for Children

Scripture: Mark 12:28-34 - Cindy Rushing

One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

Jesus replied, “The most important one is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your

strength. The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.”

The legal expert said to him, “Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one’s strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, “You aren’t far from God’s kingdom.” After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Message: “Risking Challenge”

Response to the Word

Confession, Assurance, and Peace

Liturgist: God of eternal love, you know well our grief and our longing to see you, to experience your presence. In our pain, we have grown impatient. In our sorrow, we have doubted the depth of your love. Forgive us, patient one, when we forget your call to love the One in whose image we are created. Renew our faithfulness, Holy One, when we experience the love of neighbors that reminds us that we too are called to love. Open our mouths to exclaim with delight: here is our God for whom we have waited! We need your grace to complete us. We need your love to make us whole. Amen.

Pastor: We are not far from the kingdom of God, for in Christ we are given grace and forgiveness. 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: “The Gift of Love” - Hal H. Hopson

Musicians: Joyce Theilacker, Lisa Corpron, Jayson Coleman, Randy Seward, Jennifer Lai

Thanksgiving and Holy Communion

Communion elements have been placed on chairs before the beginning of Worship for in-person participants, and online participants may select from your home to include bread (or similar) and juice (or similar). Please wait until directed before receiving your elements.

Closing Music: “Jesus, Thine All-Victorious Love” UMH 422

Musicians: Joyce Theilacker, Lisa Corpron, Jayson Coleman, Randy Seward, Jennifer Lai

1. Jesus, thine all-victorious love
shed in my heart abroad;
then shall my feet no longer rove,
rooted and fixed in God.
2. O that in me the sacred fire
might now begin to glow;
burn up the dross of base desire
and make the mountains flow!
3. O that it now from heaven might fall
and all my sins consume!
Come, Holy Ghost, for thee I call,
Spirit of burning, come!
4. Refining fire, go through my heart,
illuminate my soul;
scatter thy life through every part
and sanctify the whole.

Benediction

Postlude: “Jesus Paid It All” - Kimberly Snow

Musician: Jennifer Lai

Set up team: Todd & Betsy Witt

Ushers: Cindy Rushing, Janet Lind, Carolyn Showley, Betsy Witt

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