



**LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST**

**Sunday, August 8, 2021
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**



La Jolla United Methodist Church
6063 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037
(858) 454-7108
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

Prelude: "Processional in C" - Hal H. Hopson

Musician: Jennifer Lai

Welcome

Opening Music: "Holy Darkness" W & S 3141

Musicians: Joyce Theilacker, Lisa Corpron, Bob Wuertz, Jennifer Lai

Refrain

Holy darkness, blessed night,
heaven's answer hidden from our sight.
As we await you, O God of silence,
we embrace your holy night.

1. I have tried you in fires of affliction,
I have taught your soul to grieve.
In the barren soil of your loneliness,
there I will plant my seed.

Refrain

Holy darkness, blessed night,
heaven's answer hidden from our sight.
As we await you, O God of silence,
we embrace your holy night.

2. I have taught you the price of compassion;
you have stood before the grave.
Though my love can seem like a raging storm,
this is the love that saves.

Refrain

Holy darkness, blessed night,
heaven's answer hidden from our sight.
As we await you, O God of silence,
we embrace your holy night.

3. Were you there when I raised up the mountains?
Can you guide the morning star?
Does the hawk take flight when you give command?
Why do you doubt my power?

Refrain

Holy darkness, blessed night,
heaven's answer hidden from our sight.
As we await you, O God of silence,
we embrace your holy night.

4. In your deepest hour of darkness
I will give you wealth untold.
When the silence stills your spirit
will my riches fill your soul.

Refrain

Holy darkness, blessed night,
heaven's answer hidden from our sight.
As we await you, O God of silence,
we embrace your holy night.

5. As the watchman waits for morning,
and the bride awaits her groom,
so we wait to hear your footsteps
as we rest beneath your moon.

Refrain

Holy darkness, blessed night,
heaven's answer hidden from our sight.
As we await you, O God of silence,
we embrace your holy night.

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

1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-12, 14, 17, 19-23, 32-49 (CEB)

The Philistines assembled their troops for war at Socoh of Judah. A champion named Goliath from Gath came out from the Philistine camp. He was more than nine feet tall. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore bronze scale-armor weighing one hundred twenty-five pounds. He had bronze plates on his shins, and a bronze scimitar hung on his back. His spear shaft was as strong as the bar on a weaver's loom, and its iron head weighed fifteen pounds. His shield-bearer walked in front of him.

He stopped and shouted to the Israelite troops, "Why have you come and taken up battle formations? I am the Philistine champion, and you are Saul's servants. Isn't that right? Select one of your men, and let him come down against me. If he is able to fight me and kill me, then we will become your slaves, but if I overcome him and kill him, then you will become our slaves and you will serve us. I insult Israel's troops today!" The Philistine continued, "Give me an opponent, and we'll fight!" When Saul and all Israel heard what the Philistine said, they were distressed and terrified.

Now David was Jesse's son, an Ephraimite from Bethlehem in Judah who had eight sons. By Saul's time, Jesse was already quite old and far long in age. (David was the youngest.) These three older sons followed Saul... Jesse said to his son David, "Please take your brothers an ephah of this roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread. Deliver them quickly to your brothers in the camp. They are with Saul and all the Israelite troops fighting the Philistines in the Elah Valley.

So David got up early in the morning, left someone in charge of the flock, and loaded up and left, just as his father Jesse had instructed him. He reached the camp right when the army was taking up their battle formations and shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines took up their battle formations opposite each other. David left his things with an attendant and ran to the front line. When he arrived, he asked how his brothers were doing. Right when David was speaking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came forward from the Philistine ranks and said the same things he had said before. David listened.

"Don't let anyone lose courage because of this Philistine!" David told Saul. "I, your servant, will go out and fight him!"

"You can't go out and fight this Philistine," Saul answered David. "You are still a boy. But he's been a warrior since he was a boy!"

"Your servant has kept his father's sheep," David replied to Saul, "and if ever a lion or a bear came and carried off one of the flock, I would go after it, strike it, and rescue the animal from its mouth. If it turned on me, I would grab it at its jaw, strike it, and kill it. Your servant has fought both lions and bears. This uncircumcised Philistine will be just like one of them because he has insulted the army of the living God.

"The Lord," David added, "who rescued me from the power of both lions and bears, will rescue me from the power of this Philistine."

"Go!" Saul replied to David. "And may the Lord be with you!"

Then Saul dressed David in his own gear, putting a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. David strapped his sword on over the armor, but he couldn't walk around well because he'd never tried it before. "I can't walk in this," David told Saul, "because I've never tried it before." So he took them off. He then grabbed his staff and chose five smooth stones from the streambed. He put them in the pocket of his shepherd's bag and with sling in hand went out to the Philistine.

The Philistine got closer and closer to David, and his shield-bearer was in front of him. When the Philistine looked David over, he sneered at David because he was just a boy; reddish brown and good-looking.

The Philistine asked David, "Am I some sort of dog that you come at me with sticks?" And he cursed David by his gods. "Come here," he said to David, "and I'll feed your flesh to the wild birds and the wild animals!"

But David told the Philistine, "You are coming against me with sword, spear, and scimitar, but I come against you in the name of the Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel's army, the one

you've insulted. Today the Lord will hand you over to me. I will strike you down and cut off your head! Today I will feed your dead body and the dead bodies of the entire Philistine camp to the wild birds and the wild animals. Then the whole world will know that there is a God on Israel's side. And all those gathered here will know that the Lord doesn't save by means of sword and spear. The Lord owns this war, and he will hand all of you over to us."

The Philistine got up and moved closer to attack David, and David ran quickly to the front line to face him. David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone. He slung it, and it hit the Philistine on his forehead. The stone penetrated his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

Mark 4:35-41 (CEB)

Later that day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." They left the crowd and took him in the boat just as he was. Other boats followed along.

Gale-force winds arose, and waves crashed against the boat so that the boat was swamped. But Jesus was in the rear of the boat, sleeping on a pillow. They woke him up and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we're drowning?"

He got up and gave orders to the wind, and he said to the lake, "Silence! Be still!" The wind settled down and there was a great calm. Jesus asked them, "Why are you frightened? Don't you have faith yet?"

Overcome with awe, they said to each other, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

Message: "Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen?"

Response to the Word

Confession, Assurance, and Peace

Liturgist: Merciful God, be with us in our hour of need. When lashed by the winds of life, we long to hear you speak words of grace, "Peace! Be still!" When frightened by the waves of woe, we yearn to have you by our side, calming our fear. Reveal your Presence in the eye of the storm, and give us the courage to call out in our need, for you are our calm center and our hope when all hope seems lost.

Pastor: God listens; God helps. Now is the day of our salvation. Rejoice and receive the good news. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory: "Another Time, Another Place" by Gary Drikell

Musicians: Joyce Theilacker, Lisa Corpron, 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: “Give to the Winds Thy Fears” UMH 129

Musicians: Joyce Theilacker, Lisa Corpron, Bob Wuertz

1. Give to the winds thy fears;
hope and be undismayed.
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,
God shall lift up thy head.
2. Through waves and clouds and storms,
God gently clears thy way;
wait thou God’s time;
so shall this night soon end in joyous day.
3. Leave to God’s sovereign sway
to choose and to command;
so shalt thou, wondering, own that way,
how wise, how strong this hand.
4. Let us in life, in death,
thy steadfast truth declare,
and publish with our latest breath
thy love and guardian care.

Benediction

Postlude: “Orgelstück in C” - A. Kehre

Musician: Jennifer Lai

Liturgist: Bob Wuertz

Ushers: Millenni-X (Young Adults) and Youth

Audio Visual Team: Dave Flores, Emilio Valente, Cam Rhodes

LJUMC Ministry Team

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Rev. Derek Nguyen, Pastor of Spiritual Development;
Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb, Administrative Assistant;
Joyce Drozda, NS & Church Accountant; Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director;
Bridget Musante, NS Executive Director