



**LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST**

**Sunday, September 5, 2021
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



La Jolla United Methodist Church

6063 La Jolla Boulevard

La Jolla, CA 92037

(858) 454-7108

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

Prelude

Prelude in G
Jennifer Lai

Leon Boellmann

Welcome

Opening Music

Blessed Be Your Name
Lisa Corpron, Jayson Coleman, Randy Seward, Jennifer Lai, Bob Wuertz

W & S 3002

Verse 1

Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful,
where your streams of abundance flow, blessed be your name.

Blessed be your name when I'm found in the desert place,
though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be your name.

Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,

Refrain

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your glorious name!

Verse 2

Blessed be your name when the sun's shining down on me,
when the world's all as it should be, blessed be your name.

Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering,
though there's pain in the offering, blessed be your name.

Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,

Refrain

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your glorious name!

Bridge

You give and take away, you give and take away;
my heart will choose to say, "Lord, blessed be your name."
You give and take away, you give and take away;
my heart will choose to say, "Lord, blessed be your name."

Refrain

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your glorious name!

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

Luke 15:4-32 (CEB)

Sal Butera

“Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn’t he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Celebrate with me because I’ve found my lost sheep.’ In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.

“Or what woman, if she owns ten silver coins and loses one of them, won’t light a lamp and sweep the house, searching her home carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Celebrate with me because I’ve found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life.”

Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the inheritance.’ Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

“When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have more than enough food, but I’m starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.”’ So he got up and went to his father.

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the

fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

Message

Prodigal Son Redux

Rev. Bob Rhodes

Response to the Word

Confession, Assurance, and Peace

Liturgist: Loving God, we come before you knowing that you love us completely. With this knowledge, we confess to you our wrongdoings. Forgive us, Holy One, when we stray from your ways; when we hurt one another; when we ignore the needs of others; when we resist your guidance in our lives. Gracious God, accept our prayers and hold us in your love, that we may be the people you call us to be. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Pastor: The Lord forgives our sins and washes away our guilt. Sisters and brothers, “be glad in the Lord and rejoice,” for our hearts have been made right with God. 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

Hallelujah

W & S 3027

Lisa Corpron, Jayson Coleman, Randy Seward, Jennifer Lai, Bob Wuertz

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 and juice (or similar). Please wait until directed before receiving your elements.

Closing Music

Everlasting God

W & S 3021

Lisa Corporn, Jayson Coleman, Randy Seward, Jennifer Lai, Bob Wuertz

Verse 1

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.

Our God, you reign forever, our Hope, our strong Deliverer.

Refrain

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.
You do not faint, you won't grow weary.

You're the defender of the weak; you comfort those in need;
you lift us up on wings like eagles.

Verse 1 Repeat

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.

Our God, you reign forever, our Hope, our strong Deliverer.

Refrain

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.
You do not faint, you won't grow weary.

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Benediction

Postlude

March in D
Jennifer Lai

J.P. Sweelinck

Ushers: Cynthia Rushing, Gail Chatfield, Ann Gonsalves and Betsy Witt

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