



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

**Come Home for Christmas:
Lost at Home**

Sunday, December 26, 2021
First Sunday After Christmas
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Prelude

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Harold Drake

Welcome

† **Opening Music**

Away in a Manger

UMH 217

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Blessing for Children

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

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

1 Samuel 2:18-20 (CEB)

Now Samuel was serving the Lord. He was a young boy, clothed in a linen priestly vest. His mother would make a small robe for him and take it to him every year when she went up with her husband to

offer the annual sacrifice. Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife: “May the Lord replace the child of this woman that you gave back to the Lord.” Then they would return home.

Luke 2:41-52 (CEB)

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When he was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to their custom. After the festival was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn’t know it. Supposing that he was among their band of travelers, they journeyed on for a full day while looking for him among their family and friends. When they didn’t find Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to them. Everyone who heard him was amazed by his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were shocked.

His mother said, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Listen! Your father and I have been worried. We’ve been looking for you!”

Jesus replied, “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father’s house?” But they didn’t understand what he said to them.

Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart. Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people.

Scriptural Response

Liturgist: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Carol

Love Came Down at Christmas

UMH 242

1. Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.
2. Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus,
but wherewith for sacred sign?
3. Love shall be our token;
love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and all men,
love for plea and gift and sign.

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response in the World

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish Carol

† Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

Confession, Assurance, and Peace

All: God, you are the Parent of all creation. You know what it is to love your children passionately. And you know how it feels when your children turn away. We, your children, love you passionately, but we have also turned away. Sometimes we act like spoiled brats. Sometimes we turn our backs on you. Sometimes we pretend we don't need a parent anymore. God, forgive us. Feed us with the bread of heaven. Teach us with your wisdom. Tell us your stories. Dress us once more in the clothing of your love, that we may sing your praises in perfect harmony.

Liturgist: You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved! Thanks be to 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.

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† Closing Music

There's a Song in the Air

UMH 249

1. There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
and a baby's low cry!

And the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

2. There's a tumult of joy
o'er the wonderful birth,
for the virgin's sweet boy
is the Lord of the earth.

Ay! the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

3. In the light of that star
lie the ages imperaled;
and that song from afar
has swept over the world.

Every hearth is aflame,
and the beautiful sing
in the homes of the nations
that Jesus is King!

4. We rejoice in the light,
and we echo the song
that comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng

Ay! we shout to the lovely
evangel they bring,
and we greet in his cradle
our Savior and King!

Benediction

Postlude

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Spiritual

Liturgist: Lon Showley

Organist: Bob Wuertz

Ushers: Cindy Rushing, Gail Chatfield, Ann Gonsalves, Jean Thomas, Betsy Witt

Audio Visual Team: Dave Flores, Emilio Valente

† Indicates for those who are able to stand in body or in spirit
Liturgical elements from Abingdon Worship Annual

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