



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

**The Body of Christ:
The Greatest of These**

Sunday, January 30, 2022,
4th Sunday after Epiphany
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Prelude

Prelude on Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughn Williams
Edited Hal Hopson
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Welcome

† Opening Music

The Gift of Love

UMH 408

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
2. Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

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 Corinthians 13:1-13 (CEB)

If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don't have love, I'm a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have such complete faith that I can move mountains but I don't have love, I'm nothing. If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I've done but I don't have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever.

Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. As for prophecies, they will be brought to an end. As for tongues, they will stop. As for knowledge, it will be brought to an end. We know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, what is partial will be brought to an end. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, reason like a child, think like a child. But now that I have become a man, I've put an end to childish things. Now we see a reflection in a mirror; then we will see face-to-face. Now I know partially, but then I will know completely in the same way that I have been completely known. Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Special Music

And I Love You So
Jayson Coleman

Don McLean
©Songs of Universal, Inc.

Message

The Greatest of These

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response in the World

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

O Perfect Love

Arr. Hal Hopson
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Confession, Assurance, and Peace

All: Source of truth and love, we yearn for certainty in an uncertain world. Grant us the courage to proclaim the words you place in our mouths. Remind us that your love alone softens the heart and mind, allowing us to receive your mysterious ways. When we fear that

others will not see things our way, remind us that we all see in a mirror dimly. Silence the clanging cymbals that distract us, and harken us to your voice once more, that we may abide in your love.

Liturgist: The one who formed us in our mothers' wombs continues to shape our lives today. Rejoice in the good news: God knows us and loves us as we are. God's love heals our wounds, and gives us hope for the time before us. 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**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!

Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.

Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;

changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Benediction

Postlude

March

G.F. Handel
Arr. Hal Hopson ©2006 Hope Publishing Co.

Pianist/Organist: Bob Wuertz

Quartet: Julia Rahm, Bob Wuertz, Jayson Coleman, Randy Seward

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

Liturgical elements from *The 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