

LUKE

JESUS AND THE
OUTSIDERS, OUTCASTS,
AND OUTLAWS

*Third Sunday
in Lent*

La Jolla United Methodist Church
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Prelude

What Wondrous Love Is This?

Arr. Mark Hayes
©2017 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Introit

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

Arr. Donald Moore
©1996 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

Call to Worship

Leader: The Spirit of God that breathes us into life, whispers: Come home.

People: We come home to the open arms of Love.

Leader: We come as we are.

People: We come with joy.

Leader: We come hungry for nourishment.

People: We come beaten down and burnt out.

Leader: We come eager to find our place in the whole.

People: We come bringing all of who we are;

Leader: our grief and our anger

People: our regrets and our longings.

Leader: We give God thanks, for Christ's welcome is eternal.

All: Come home to worship. Amen.

Welcome

† **Opening Hymn**

Amazing Grace Vs. 1,2,4,6

UMH 378

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
6. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Blessing for Children

Prayers of the People

*A Pastor will begin a time of prayer and name those for whom our congregation is praying.
Online Worshipers may type prayer requests in the Live Chat, taking care for privacy.*

Pastoral Prayer

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (CEB)

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Jesus told them this parable:

“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.’”

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Arr. Ed Lojeski
©1975 Hal Leonard Publishing Corp.

Message

Parables from the Underside

Rev. Tara Limbaugh

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Matthew McConnell
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† **Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

Prayer of Confession

All: God of compassion and Sacred Ways, We have so much still to learn. By your grace we have come to know love more deeply - it's complexity, its stubborn and tender truths transform us more each day. Search our hearts, O God, and see if there is any fear within us. Meet us there with your good news that sets the captives free. Forgive us from the harm we have done as we seek to harm no more.

One: God does not bind us to our regrets, or forever hold us to what we once believed. God says, come and follow! Know forgiveness and sin no more. Love abounds. Wherever new life is desired, may the peace of Christ be welcomed among 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.

Thanksgiving and Holy Communion

Musical Setting A

UMH 17

Online worshipers are invited to select elements including bread and juice (or similar) from their homes to participate in Holy Communion. Please wait until directed before receiving your elements.

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.

Prayer After Communion

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† Closing Hymn

Hymn of Promise

UMH 707

1. In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2. There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.

From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3. In the end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.

In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

† Benediction

Postlude

Amazing Grace

Arr. Hal Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *The United Methodist Hymnal and @enfleshed*.

Flowers: from Marjorie Slankard in honor of her husband, Alan Bergelson,
and his March 14 birthday

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LJUMC Ministry Team

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