



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Gender, Guns, and Migrants

Sunday, June 4, 2023
Peace with Justice Sunday
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Prelude

I'll Fly Away

Albert E. Brumley/Arr. Mark Hayes
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Introit

O Day of God Draw Nigh

UMH 730

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

We Are Called

TFWS 2172

1. Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

Refrain

We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God!

2. Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

Refrain

We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God!

3. Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love!

Refrain

We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God!

Blessing for Young Hearts

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

Hebrew Reading

Deuteronomy 10:14-18 (The Message)

Look around you: Everything you see is God's—the heavens above and beyond, the Earth, and everything on it. But it was your ancestors who God fell in love with; he picked their children—that's you!—out of all the other peoples. That's where we are right now. So cut away the thick calluses from your heart and stop being so willfully hardheaded. God, your God, is the God of all gods, he's the Master of all masters, a God immense and powerful and awesome. He doesn't play favorites, takes no bribes, makes sure orphans and widows are treated fairly, takes loving care of foreigners by seeing that they get food and clothing.

Epistle Reading

1 John 3:11-19 (The Message)

For this is the original message we heard: We should love each other.

We must not be like Cain, who joined the Evil One and then killed his brother. And why did he kill him? Because he was deep in the practice of evil, while the acts of his brother were righteous. So don't be surprised, friends, when the world hates you. This has been going on a long time.

The way we know we've been transferred from death to life is that we love our brothers and sisters. Anyone who doesn't love is as good as dead. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know very well that eternal life and murder don't go together.

This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear. My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality. It's also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves.

Anthem

Make Me an Instrument

Craig Courtney
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Gospel Reading

Matthew 7:12-20, 24 (The Message)

“Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for *them*. Add up God’s Law and Prophets and this is what you get.

“Don’t look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don’t fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life—to God!—is vigorous and requires total attention.

“Be wary of false preachers who smile a lot, dripping with practiced sincerity. Chances are they are out to rip you off some way or other. Don’t be impressed with charisma; look for character. Who preachers *are* is the main thing, not what they say. A genuine leader will never exploit your emotions or your pocketbook. These diseased trees with their bad apples are going to be chopped down and burned.

“These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on.

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Message

“Gender, Guns, and Migrants”

Rev. Tara Limbaugh

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Adoration

Mark Hayes
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Special Sunday Offering for Peace with Justice Ministries of the United Methodist Church

† **Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

Prayer of Confession

One: From self-righteousness that will not compromise, and from selfishness that gains by the oppression of others,

All: O Lord, deliver us.

One: From the lust for money or power that drives to kill,

All: O Lord, deliver us.

One: From trusting in the weapons of war, and mistrusting the councils of peace

All: O Lord, deliver us.

One: From hearing, believing, and speaking lies about other nations,

All: O Lord, deliver us.

One: From suspicions and fears that stand in the way of reconciliation,

All: O Lord, deliver us.

One: From words and deeds that encourage discord and prejudice;

All: O Lord, deliver us.

One: From everything that prevents us from fulfilling your promise of peace.

All: O Lord, Deliver us.

One: Beloved, through the love shown to us by Jesus, we can be sure that we are God's children now. The Spirit of Christ is among us in this gathering and the nature of Christ is revealed within us. We are becoming more and more like Christ each day. Therefore, let us live joyfully as God's people; saints and instruments of God's way. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

Thanksgiving and Holy Communion

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**

Here I Am

UMH 593

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

4. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

If I Had a Hammer

Pete Seeger/Lee Hayes

Liturgical elements from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, United Methodist Book of Worship, Seasons of the Spirit: Woodlake Publishing*, and *The United Methodist Hymnal*

Flowers: from Marjorie Slankard & Alan Bergelson in celebration
of their wedding anniversary

Liturgist: Rebecca Smith

Organist: Robert Wuertz

Pianist: Rebecca Cosford

Ushers: Rod Betts, Dan Martin, Peter McCreight, Don Rushing, Charles Wurster

Communion Servers: Ann Gonsalves, Valerie Mickey, Virginia McCrae

Tech Team: AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

LJUMC Ministry Team

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Rev. Tara Limbaugh, Pastor of Connexion;
Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb, Office Manager;
Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director; Erin Wyer, NS Executive Director