



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Strength in Connexion

Sunday, July 9, 2023
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Prelude

Air on the G String

J.S. Bach
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Introit

Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother?

TFWS 2225

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

O Church of God, United

UMH 547

1. O church of God, united to serve one common Lord,
proclaim to all one message, with hearts in glad accord.
Christ ever goes before us; we follow day by day
with strong and eager footsteps along the upward way.
2. From every land and nation the ordered ranks appear;
to serve one valiant leader they come from far and near.
They chant their one confession, they praise one living Lord,
and place their sure dependence upon his saving word.
3. Though creeds and tongues may differ, they speak, O Christ, of thee;
and in thy loving spirit we shall one people be.
Lord, may our faithful service and singleness of aim
proclaim to all the power of thy redeeming name.
4. May thy great prayer be answered that we may all be one,
close bound, by love united in thee, God's blessed Son:
to bring a single witness, to make the pathway bright,
that souls which grope in darkness may find the one true light.

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

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

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16 (CEB)

Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.

God has given his grace to each one of us measured out by the gift that is given by Christ.

He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son. God's goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ. As a result, we aren't supposed to be infants any longer who can be tossed and blown around by every wind that comes from teaching with deceitful scheming and the tricks people play to deliberately mislead others. Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ, who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part.

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem

In the Midst of New Dimensions

TFWS 2238

Message

"Strength in Connexion"

Rev. Tara Limbaugh

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Bist Du Bei Mir

J.S. Bach; Arr. by Hal H. Hopson
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† Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

Prayer of Confession

All: Gracious God, we want to live as people worthy of your calling. Help us recognize your gifts and blessings, that we may live up to our calling and bless others with our words and our lives. When we fall short, have mercy on us. When we don't know our mistakes, speak truth to us with your loving guidance. Create a new heart within us, a heart full of love and gratitude. Nourish us with the grace of your presence, that we may indeed live as people worthy of your calling. Amen.

One: In Christ's grace, our hearts are cleansed and our lives are made whole. In Christ's grace, we are forgiven and loved for life. 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 Hymn

God Made from One Blood

TFWS 2170

1. God made from one blood all the families of earth,
the circles of nurture that raised us from birth,
companions who join us to walk through each stage
of childhood and youth and adulthood and age.
2. We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears
for all of the families we've known through the years,
the intimate networks on whom we depend
of parent and partner and roommate and friend.
3. We learn through our families how closeness and trust
increase when our actions are loving and just.
Yet families have also distorted their roles,
mistreating their members and bruising their souls.
4. Give, Lord, to each family in conflict and storm
a sense of your wisdom and grace that transform
sharp anger to insight which strengthens the heart
and makes clear the place where rebuilding can start.
5. Then widen that wisdom and grace to include
the races and viewpoints our families exclude
till peace in each home bears and nurtures the bud
of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.

† Benediction

Postlude

Grand Jeu

Jean Adam Guilain; Ed. by Hal H. Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *The Abingdon Worship Annual* and *The United Methodist Hymnal*

Flowers: In honor of Tom & Kathy Dombrowski birthdays
Liturgist: Sal Butera
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Ushers: Rod Betts, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight, Russell Toppi
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