



LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

# Celebrating our Diverse Heritage

Sunday, July 16, 2023  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Prelude

*Adagio in Ab*

Felix Mendelssohn/Edited Hal H. Hopson  
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### Introit

*The Family Prayer Song*

TFWS 2188

### Welcome

### † Opening Hymn

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

UMH 548

1. In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north;  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.
3. In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,  
and neither slave nor free;  
both male and female heirs are made,  
and all are kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north;  
all Christly souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.

### 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

Acts 15:1-18 (CEB)

Some people came down from Judea teaching the family of believers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom we’ve received from Moses, you can’t be saved.” Paul and Barnabas took sides against these Judeans and argued strongly against their position.

The church at Antioch appointed Paul, Barnabas, and several others from Antioch to go up to Jerusalem to set this question before the apostles and the elders. The church sent this delegation on their way. They traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, telling stories about the conversion of the Gentiles to everyone. Their reports thrilled the brothers and sisters. When they arrived in Jerusalem, the church, the apostles, and the elders all welcomed them. They gave a full report of what God had accomplished through their activity. Some believers from among the Pharisees stood up and claimed, “The Gentiles must be circumcised. They must be required to keep the Law from Moses.”

The apostles and the elders gathered to consider this matter. After much debate, Peter stood and addressed them, “Fellow believers, you know that, early on, God chose me from among you as the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and come to believe. God, who knows people’s deepest thoughts and desires, confirmed this by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, but purified their deepest thoughts and desires through faith. Why then are you now challenging God by placing a burden on the shoulders of these disciples that neither we nor our ancestors could bear? On the contrary, we believe that we and they are saved in the same way, by the grace of the Lord Jesus.”

The entire assembly fell quiet as they listened to Barnabas and Paul describe all the signs and wonders God did among the Gentiles through their activity. When Barnabas and Paul also fell silent, James responded, “Fellow believers, listen to me. Simon reported how, in his kindness, God came to the Gentiles in the first place, to raise up from them a people of God. The prophets’ words agree with this; as it is written,

*After this I will return,  
and I will rebuild David’s fallen tent;  
I will rebuild what has been torn down.  
I will restore it  
so that the rest of humanity will seek the Lord,  
even all the Gentiles who belong to me.  
The Lord says this, the one who does these things  
known from earliest times.*

## Scriptural Response

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

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Anthem**

*We Need a Faith*

TFWS 2181

**Message**

*“Celebrating our Diverse Heritage”*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

**Offertory**

*Jupiter (The Planets)*

Gustav Holst  
©1998 Hal Leonard Corporation

† **Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 94

### Prayer of Confession

**All: Teach our hearts to love, O God, as you would have us love. Teach our eyes to see, Holy One, as you would have us see. For we are constantly drawing distinctions that separate others into friends and foes, insiders and outsiders. You would have us love without prejudice. You would have us accept without judgment. You would have us truly learn to love. Make your home among us, so that we might be made one and be made whole. Amen.**

**One:** The One who made heaven and earth dwells among us to bring us love and life. Let us Praise the Lord our God, for the One who loves us is faithful. 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**

*Together We Serve*

TFWS 2175

1. Together we serve, united by love,  
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.  
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,  
extending your love to the last and the least.

2. We seek to become beacon of hope,  
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
until we see Christ in each person we meet.
3. We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,  
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.  
We offer a home to those who will come,  
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.
4. Together, by grace, we witness and work,  
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong  
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,  
remembering love is the strength of our song.

† **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*O Had I Jubal's Lyre*

G.F. Handel/Arr. Hal H. Hopson  
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**Liturgical elements from *The Abingdon Worship Annual* and *The United Methodist Hymnal***

**Flowers:** in honor of Jayson Coleman for his work building the new soundbooth  
**Liturgist:** Ann Davis  
**Organist:** Robert Wuertz  
**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford  
**Ushers:** Beau Brandon, Dan Martin, Peter McCreight, Lon Showley  
**Tech Team:** AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

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**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