



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Wrestling with Favor

Sunday, August 13, 2023

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Prelude

Lentamente

Sergei Rachmaninoff/Arr. Hal Ho. Hopson
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Welcome

† **Opening Hymn**

When Cain Killed Abel

TFWS 2135

1. When Cain killed Abel in a fight,
and Jacob stole another's right,
when Joseph's brothers gave him chase,
God wept and mourned their fall from grace.
2. In every family, small or great,
when jealousy twists love to hate,
and rivals turn to enemies,
God weeps at our hostilities.
3. And when in church and world today
such feelings still come into play,
when brothers, sisters stand apart,
God weeps for every broken heart.
4. Good Christians, join in God's lament,
weep now and mourn, be penitent,
and pray to God: Forgive us all.
Restore us as before the fall.

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

Genesis 37:1-4, 19-28

Jacob lived in the land of Canaan where his father was an immigrant. This is the account of Jacob's descendants. Joseph was 17 years old and tended the flock with his brothers. While he was helping the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, Joseph told their father unflattering things about them. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons because he was born when Jacob was old. Jacob had made for him a long robe. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him and couldn't even talk nicely to him.

The brothers said to each other, "Here comes the big dreamer. Come on now, let's kill him and throw him into one of the cisterns, and we'll say a wild animal devoured him. Then we will see what becomes of his dreams!"

When Reuben heard what they said, he saved him from them, telling them, "Let's not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Don't spill his blood! Throw him into this desert cistern, but don't lay a hand on him." He intended to save Joseph from them and take him back to his father.

Joseph reached his brothers, they stripped off Joseph's long robe, took him, and threw him into the cistern, an empty cistern with no water in it. When they sat down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with camels carrying sweet resin, medicinal resin, and fragrant resin on their way down to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, "What do we gain if we kill our brother and hide his blood? Come on, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites. Let's not harm him because he's our brother; he's family." His brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they pulled Joseph up out of the cistern. They sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver, and they brought Joseph to Egypt.

Romans 10:10-13

Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. The scripture says, All who have faith in him won't be put to shame. There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. All who call on the Lord's name will be saved.

Matthew 14:22-33

Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water."

And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

Then those in the boat worshiped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Special Music

Any Dream Will Do
Randy Seward

Andrew Lloyd Webber
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Message

Wrestling with Favor

Pastor Tara

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

My Heart Ever Faithful

J.S. Bach
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† Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

Prayer of Confession

**All: O God our Creator,
forgive us when we try to make you in our image;
forgive us when we turn to earthly rulers
for the wisdom and strength
you have already shown us.
Fulfill your purpose in us,
that we may be your people,
your temples upon this earth,
your sisters and brothers in love and mercy.
In trust and hope, we pray. Amen.**

One: Even the Most High God regards the lowly
with love and compassion.
Christ welcomes the hurting and lost with open arms.
Come, we are the brothers and sisters of Christ.
All are forgiven by grace.

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† Closing Hymn

I Have a Dream
verses 1-2, 4-5

W & S 3127

1. "I have a dream," a man once said,
"Where all is perfect peace;
where men and women, black and white,
stand hand in hand, and all unite
in freedom and in love, in freedom and in love."
2. But in this world of bitter strife
the dream can often fade;
reality seems dark as night,
we catch but glimpses of the light
Christ sheds on humankind, Christ sheds on humankind.
4. So dream the dreams and sing the songs,
but never be content; for thoughts and words
don't ease the pain:
unless there's action, all is vain;
faith proves itself in deeds, faith proves itself in deeds.
5. Lord, give us vision, make us strong,
help us to do your will;
don't let us rest until we see
your love throughout humanity
uniting us in peace, uniting us in peace.

† Benediction

Postlude

Symphony in Bb

Nicolas Le Behue/Arr. Hal H. Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* and *The United Methodist Hymnal*

- Flowers:** Rebecca Tseng-Smith: In celebration of my sweet husband Tom Smith Tseng and our 30th anniversary
- Liturgist:** Sal Butera
- Organist:** Robert Wuertz
- Ushers:** Lisa Corpron, Russ Corpron, Sandy McCreight, Peter McCreight
- 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