

A photograph of a church interior. A bright yellow carpet runs down the center aisle, leading towards a large, open doorway at the far end. The doorway is flanked by two columns and opens up to a bright, sunny outdoor scene with green hills and a blue sky. To the left, a staircase with a wooden railing is visible. To the right, there is a window with a decorative glass pattern and a small altar area with a shelf. The overall atmosphere is bright and inviting.

**LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST**

# Enter the Gates

**Sunday, November 12, 2023  
Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)**

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Call to Worship

One: God is great, and greatly to be praised!

**All: We thank you, God, for families and friends. We thank you for the warmth of kitchens, quilts, and good neighbors.**

One: God, how great is your name throughout the earth!

**All: We thank you, God, for newborn kittens and faithful dogs, for pine trees and sunlight and crisp, clean air.**

One: Blessed be God, the rock of our salvation!

**All: We thank you, God, for the sound of laughter and the touch of love, for brand new mornings and for dreams held close.**

One: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise. Come! Let us worship God.

### Prelude

#### Introit

*Count Your Blessings*

Arr. Donald Moore  
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### Welcome

#### † Opening Hymn

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

TFWS 2191

1. Eternal Father, strong to save,  
whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
Who bid the mighty ocean deep  
its own appointed limits keep:

O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

2. O Savior, whose almighty word  
the wind and waves submissive heard,  
who walked upon the foaming deep,  
and calm amid its rage did sleep:

O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

3. O Holy Spirit, who did brood  
upon the chaos wild and rude,

and bid its angry, tumult cease,  
and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:

O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

4. O Trinity of love and power,  
all travelers guard in danger's hour;  
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
protect them wheresoe'er they go;

thus evermore shall rise to thee  
glad praise from air and land and sea.

### **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.

#### **Prayer Response**

*Amen*

Arr. Donald Moore  
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## **WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

#### **Scripture**

Psalm 100

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!  
Serve the Lord with celebration!  
Come before him with shouts of joy!  
Know that the Lord is God—  
he made us; we belong to him.  
We are his people,  
the sheep of his own pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanks;  
enter his courtyards with praise!

Thank him! Bless his name!  
Because the Lord is good,  
his loyal love lasts forever;  
his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

## Scriptural Response

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

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

**Anthem**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Arr. Benjamin Harlan  
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**Message**

*Enter the Gates*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

**Response to the Word**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**

† **Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 94

**Prayer of Confession**

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we neglect to acknowledge you as God in our lives. We live like we have complete control over our own future. We forget that you created us and that we are the sheep of your pasture. We separate ourselves from the flock and abandon our bonds with one another as we try to do it all on our own. We have traded gratitude for individualism and thanksgiving for self-reliance. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to live as your grateful people.**

**One:** Receive the good news: God's steadfast love endures forever! While we were yet sinners, God made a way for us to return to God and to return to one another. By God's grace, we are reconciled with God and with God's people. 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**

*Maker, In Whom We Live*

UMH 88

1. Maker, in whom we live, in whom we are and move,  
the glory, power, and praise receive, for thy creating love.  
Let all the angel throng give thanks to God on high,  
while earth repeats the joyful song and echoes to the sky.
2. Incarnate Deity, let all the ransomed race  
render in thanks their lives to thee for thy redeeming grace.  
The grace to sinners showed ye heavenly choirs proclaim,  
and cry, "Salvation to our God, salvation to the Lamb!"
3. Spirit of Holiness, let all thy saints adore  
thy sacred energy, and bless thine heart-renewing power.  
Not angel tongues can tell thy love's ecstatic height,  
the glorious joy unspeakable, the beatific sight.
4. Eternal, Triune God, let all the hosts above,  
let all on earth below record and dwell upon thy love.  
When heaven and earth are fled before thy glorious face,  
sing all the saints thy love hath made thine everlasting praise.

#### † **Benediction**

#### **Postlude**

#### **Liturgical elements from *The General Board of Discipleship* and *The United Methodist Hymnal***

<b>Flowers:</b>	from Paula Todd in memory of Ted Todd
<b>Liturgist:</b>	George Ann Wurster
<b>Accompanist:</b>	Rebecca Cosford
<b>Guest Conductor:</b>	Laura Williams
<b>Ushers:</b>	Rod Betts, Steve Gray, Peter McCreight, Russell Toppi
<b>Tech Team:</b>	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