

A hand holding a magnifying glass over a background of glowing question marks. The magnifying glass is held by a hand on the left side, and its lens is focused on a central question mark. The background is dark with several glowing question marks in white and red. The text "LA JOLLA UNITED METHODIST" is written in white, serif font, centered above the magnifying glass. The text "Call & Response" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered below the magnifying glass. The date and event information are written in white, sans-serif font, centered at the bottom of the image.

**LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST**

Call & Response

Sunday, January 21, 2024
Third Sunday After the Epiphany
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Arioso

J.S. Bach/Arr. Hal H. Hopson
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Call to Worship

One: Are you listening? God is doing a new thing! Will you join in?

Left: Yes! We will follow!

One: Listen! Did you miss it? God calls us again to build the kin-dom of heaven. Will you join in?

Right: Yes! We will be builders of the kin-dom.

One: Wait, did you catch that? Again, God calls us to declare the good news to those in need. Will you join in?

Left: Yes! We will declare the good news with our voices and our lives.

One: And still, God calls. God never quits calling us to live and to give abundant life. Will you join in?

Right: Yes! We will join with God in sharing the gracious gift of abundant life with the world.

All: May we respond to God's loving and persistent call with a loving and persistent yes! A yes for us, a yes for our neighbors, and a yes for our world to be transformed by the good news that God's kin-dom has come near. Amen.

Prelude

Andantino

Gabriel Faure/Arr. Hal H. Hopson
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Welcome

† Opening Hymn

God of Love and God of Power

UMH 578

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

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (CEB)

The Lord's word came to Jonah a second time: "Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city, and declare against it the proclamation that I am commanding you." And Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, according to the Lord's word. (Now Nineveh was indeed an enormous city, a three days' walk across.) Jonah started into the city, walking one day, and he cried out, "Just forty days more and Nineveh will be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on mourning clothes, from the greatest of them to the least significant.

God saw what they were doing—that they had ceased their evil behavior. So God stopped planning to destroy them, and he didn't do it.

Mark 1:14-20 (CEB)

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

As Jesus passed alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." Right away, they left their nets and followed him. After going a little farther, he saw James and John, Zebedee's sons, in their boat repairing the fishing nets. At that very moment he called them. They followed him, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Special Music

My Little Prayer
Jayson Coleman, Solo

David Archuletta
©2016 Archie Songs

Message

Call & Response

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Thanks Be to Thee

G.F. Handel/Arr. Hal H. Hopson
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† Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share here in this sacred space and among this loving community. But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here. We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience. Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors, open our hearts to others; some like us, some not. We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies for fear they just might become friends. Amen.

One: The one who calls us to this place calls us to reconciliation through grace. God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit. Know that you are forgiven and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love. 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

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

TFWS 2129

† Benediction

Postlude

Awake the Trumpet's Lofty Sound

G.F. Handel/Arr. Hal H. Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The United Methodist Hymnal*

Flowers: in honor of the Missions Committee
Liturgist: Sal Butera
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Steve Gray, Dave Grundies, 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