

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 word "Community" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, centered below the magnifying glass.

**LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST**

**Community**

**Sunday, January 28, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany**  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Gathering Music

*Preamble*

Louis Vierne/Edited Hal H. Hopson  
©2006 Hope Publishing Co.

### Call to Worship

One: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart in the company of the upright in the congregation.

**All: Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

One: The works of God's hands are faithful and just; all God's precepts are trustworthy.

**All: They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

One: God's works extend to you and me and the whole community as the Spirit nurtures gifts and graces in each of us.

**All: Great are the works of the Lord, whose love and grace endures forever!**

One: God raises up some to be prophets to help us follow God's voice, yet all are called to lead by following.

**All: We affirm the gifts of those who are called to be truth-tellers in our midst, helping us all to answer the call to be truth-doers. Great are the works of the Lord! Amen.**

### Prelude

*Largo*

Henri Eccles/Arr. Hal H. Hopson  
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### Introit

*We Are the Body of Christ*

Scott Wesley Brown/David Hampton  
©1996 New Spring Publishing, Inc.

### Welcome

#### † Opening Hymn

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

UMH 549

1. Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found;  
brought here together  
by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
2. With grateful joy and holy fear  
true charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and strength  
now love Christ in return.
3. Forgive we now each other's faults  
as we our faults confess;  
and let us love each other well  
in Christian holiness.

4. Let strife among us be unknown,  
let all contention cease;  
be Christ the glory that we seek,  
be ours his holy peace.
5. Let us recall that in our midst  
dwells God's begotten Son;  
as members of his body joined,  
we are in him made one.
6. Love can exclude no race or creed  
if honored be God's name;  
our common life embraces all  
whose Maker is the same.

## **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**

*Bind Us Together*

Bob Gillman  
©1997 Kingsway's Thank You Music

## **WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

### **Scripture**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (CEB)

The Lord your God will raise up a prophet like me from your community, from your fellow Israelites. He's the one you must listen to. That's exactly what you requested from the Lord your God at Horeb, on the day of the assembly, when you said, "I can't listen to the Lord my God's voice anymore or look at this great fire any longer. I don't want to die!"

The Lord said to me: What they've said is right. I'll raise up a prophet for them from among their fellow Israelites—one just like you. I'll put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I myself will hold accountable anyone who doesn't listen to my words, which that

prophet will speak in my name. However, any prophet who arrogantly speaks a word in my name that I haven't commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods—that prophet must die.

Mark 1:21-28 (CEB)

Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God."

"Silence!" Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. "Come out of him!" The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out.

Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, "What's this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!" Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

### Scriptural Response

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

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

### Anthem

*I Am the Vine*  
Chancel Choir, Sue Boles, Flute

Allen Pote  
©2017 Hinshaw Music

### Message

*Community*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

*Grand Jeu* Jean Adam Guilain/Edited Hal H. Hopson  
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### † Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 94

### Prayer of Confession

All: **Holy God, hear our prayer. You send prophets and saviors to help us, to save us, to raise us, and our response is to question you. You heal someone's beloved, and we ask, "Why not this one too?" You shower food upon some who hunger, and we complain that our stomachs are growling. Forgive us. Forgive us not for our doubts, but for our limited perspective. Open wide before us the vista of your grace, and the expanse of your love, and the wonder of your healing power. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.**

One: Sisters and brothers in Christ, hear the Good News: At some time, each one of us has been lost in many different ways. But now we are indeed found, and not simply found, but rejoiced over, and cherished, and beloved. 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 a 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

*Fugue*

Louis Nicolas Clerambault  
Edited Hal H. Hopson  
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The United Methodist Hymnal*

**Flowers:** from Carol Shively, in memory of Harold "Shive" Shively  
**Liturgist:** Lisa Corpron  
**Organist:** Robert Wuertz  
**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford  
**Ushers:** Russ Corpron, 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