



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

The Last Week Challenging Authority

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Peaceful Piano #1

Mark Hayes
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Call to Worship

One: Love the Lord your God.
All: We love with all our heart.

One: Love the Lord your God.
All: We love with all our soul.

One: Love the Lord your God.
All: We love with all our mind.

One: Love the Lord your God.
All: We love with all our strength.

Introit

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

TFWS 2195

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

The God of Abraham Praise

UMH 116

1. The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days, and God of love;
Jehovah, great I AM! by earth and heaven confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.
2. The great I AM has sworn; I on this oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heaven ascend.
I shall behold God's face; I shall God's power adore,
and sing the wonders of God's grace forevermore.
3. The heavenly land I see, with peace and plenty blest;
a land of sacred liberty, and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.
4. The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,
and "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King!
Who was, and is, the same, and evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM, we worship thee!"

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

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Mark 12:28-34 (CEB)

One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

Jesus replied, “The most important one is *Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* The second is this, *You will love your neighbor as yourself.* No other commandment is greater than these.”

The legal expert said to him, “Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one’s strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, “You aren’t far from God’s kingdom.” After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

The Staff of Faith

Craig Courtney
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Message

Challenging Authority

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
Dorian Bells

Arr. Anna Laura Page
©2015 Choristers Guild

Prayer of Confession

All: You alone are our God, our hope and help, but we do not always find it easy to love you with all our being. Our hearts, our minds, our strength do not always seek what is worthy of our trust and hope; nor do we always find it easy to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. When we find ourselves far from your kingdom, draw us near. Forgive us when we fail and bring us home to you, God of Love. Amen.

One: Through the love and forgiveness of God in Jesus Christ, we are not far from the kingdom! We *belong* to this kingdom! Rejoice in the saving help of our God! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Thanksgiving and Holy Communion Musical Setting A

UMH 17

Online worshipers are invited to select elements including bread and juice (or similar) from their homes to participate in Holy Communion. Please wait until directed before receiving your elements.

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.

Communion Song*You Feed Us, Gentle Savior*

W & S 3169

1. You feed us, gentle Savior, the bread that makes us whole,
 the wine of your compassion poured out into our soul.
 The food of your own presence, your Spirit, strong, within,
 the grace that heals us deeply and overcomes our sin.
2. You bind us, gentle Savior, and weave us into one,
 one flesh and blood made holy, the Body of your Son.
 We gather here in hunger, one hunger, all the same;
 and with one grace you bless us together in his name.
3. You call us, gentle Savior, and send us in your name.
 You teach and heal and show us how we can do the same.
 So, strengthened by your Spirit and nourished by your grace,
 we go to be your presence in love, in every place.

Prayer After Communion

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† Closing Hymn

Jesus, Thine All-Victorious Love

UMH 422

1. Jesus, thine all victorious love shed in my heart abroad;
then shall my feet no longer rove, rooted and fixed in God.
2. O that in me the sacred fire might now begin to glow;
burn up the dross of base desire and make the mountains flow!
3. O that it now from heaven might fall and all my sins consume!
Come, Holy Ghost, for thee I call, Spirit of burning, come!
4. Refining fire, go through my heart, illuminate my soul;
scatter thy life through every part and sanctify the whole.

† Benediction

Postlude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Edited by Hal H. Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *The Abingdon Worship Annual and Discipleship Ministries (UMC)*

Flowers: in honor of the Finance Committee of our church
Liturgist: Cyrus Ebrahimi
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Gail Chatfield, Ann Davis, Ann Gonsalves and Janet Lind
Communion Servers: Gail Chatfield, Randy Seward, Jerri Williams
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