



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

The Last Week Setting the Plot in Motion

Sunday, March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Peaceful Piano #2

Mark Hayes
©2023 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Call to Worship

One: O give thanks to our God, who is good.

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: For Christ has opened the gates of righteousness, that we may enter.

One: He has emptied himself for love of us.

All: Christ took human form, that we might know we are known.

One: Holy One, you are our God,

All: and we give thanks to you.

One: We give thanks to our God, who is good.

All: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Introit

Give Me Jesus

W & S 3140

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Welsh Folk Melody

1. Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising and soon He will draw night;
Up, watch with expectation, at midnight comes the cry.
2. See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;
Look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand
arise, O heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!
3. Our hope and expectations, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Thou son of longed for, above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord to see
the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with 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

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

Hear My Prayer, O God

W & S 3131

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Mark 14:1-11

It was two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and legal experts through cunning tricks were searching for a way to arrest Jesus and kill him. But they agreed that it shouldn't happen during the festival; otherwise, there would be an uproar among the people.

Jesus was at Bethany visiting the house of Simon, who had a skin disease. During dinner, a woman came in with a vase made of alabaster and containing very expensive perfume of pure nard. She broke open the vase and poured the perfume on his head. Some grew angry. They said to each other, "Why waste the perfume? This perfume could have been sold for almost a year's pay and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.

Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me. You always have the poor with you; and whenever you want, you can do something good for them. But you won't always have me. She has done what she could. She has anointed my body ahead of time for burial. I tell you the truth that, wherever in the whole world the good news is announced, what she's done will also be told in memory of her."

Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to give Jesus up to them. When they heard it, they were delighted and promised to give him money. So he started looking for an opportunity to turn him in.

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Anthem

I Know Whom I Have Believed

UMH 714

1. I know not why God's wondrous grace
to me he hath made known,

nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
redeemed me for his own.

Refrain

But I know whom I have believed,
and am persuaded that he is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto him against that day.

2. I know not how this saving faith
to me he did impart,
nor how believing in his word
wrought peace within my heart.

Refrain

But I know whom I have believed,
and am persuaded that he is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto him against that day.

3. I know not how the Spirit moves,
convincing us of sin,
revealing Jesus through the word,
creating faith in him.

Refrain

But I know whom I have believed,
and am persuaded that he is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto him against that day.

4. I know not when my Lord may come,
at night or noonday fair,
nor if I walk the vale with him,
or meet him in the air.

Refrain

But I know whom I have believed,
and am persuaded that he is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto him against that day.

Message

Setting the Plot in Motion

Rev. Tara Limbaugh

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Adoration

Mark Hayes
©2018 Lorenz Publishing

† Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Prayer of Confession

One: Mercy of mercies, save us from being self-centered in our prayers, and teach us to remember to pray for others.

All: May we be so bound up in love with those for whom we pray that we may feel their needs as acutely as our own, and intercede for them with sensitivity, with understanding, and with imagination. Our times are in your hands. Give us the courage and the strength to stay by your side. Amen.

One: God sustains the weary with a word, and so shall God sustain us. Christ stands with us, bringing the grace of our longing. 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

Trust and Obey

UMH 467

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain

- Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.
2. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey.

Refrain

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

- 3 But we never can prove the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows, for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey.

Refrain

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

4. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do, where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey.

Refrain

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Allegretto

Antonio Vivaldi/Arr. Hal H. Hopson
©2006 Hope Publishing Co.

Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: Marjorie Slankard in honor of her husband, Alan Bergelson, and his birthday
Liturgist: Deborah Butera
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Ann Davis, Gail Chatfield, Ann Gonsalves, Cindy Rushing
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