

A close-up photograph of a Scrabble board. The wooden tiles are arranged to spell out 'THE POWER WORDS'. The tiles are placed on a grey grid with various colored squares (blue for 'TRIPLE LETTER SCORE' and 'DOUBLE LETTER SCORE', pink for 'DOUBLE WORD SCORE'). A church logo, featuring a red cross inside a white circle, is positioned above the text. The text 'LA JOLLA UNITED METHODIST' is written in a white, serif font over a semi-transparent dark grey rectangular background.

LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Sunday, April 21, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Peaceful Piano #11

Mark Hayes
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Call to Worship

One: People of God, holy and beloved, put on compassion and kindness this day.

All: Praise God in the highest heaven. Praise God in the deepest sea.

One: Children of the Most High, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves in humility and gentleness.

All: Praise God with the winged messengers. Praise God with the heavenly host.

One: Disciples of Christ, holy and beloved, find unity through the bonds of love.

All: Let all creation sing God's praise. Let all creation worship the Lord.

Introit

Confession

W & S 3138

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

All My Days

W & S 3011

1. You know my words before they're said.
You know my need and I am fed.
You give me life. You know my ways,
my strength, my path, for all my days,
my strength, my path, for all my days.
2. If I should fly beyond the dawn,
the darkness will not overcome.
If I lie down in deepest night,
still you are there, my Lord, my light,
still you are there, my Lord, my light.
3. Our every thought, each word we say,
the whole of time, the present day,
are held within your mighty hand,
too wonderful to comprehend,
too wonderful to comprehend!
4. O mend my heart and free my voice.
From sin released, I will rejoice.
O search me, Lord, my spirit cries,
and let my song of praise arise,
and let my song of praise arise!

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

Let the Words of My Mouth

Arr. Donald Moore
©1994 Belwin-Mills Publishing Co.

WE HEAR THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Colossians 3:8-9, 12-13, 15b (NRSVue)

But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices... Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And be thankful.

James 1:19-20 (NRSVue)

You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, for human anger does not produce God's righteousness.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

Lord, Speak to Me

Arr. Edward H. Wetherill
©1984 Harold Flammer, Inc.

Message

Family Words: Hurtful or Life-Giving

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Interlude

Mark Hayes
©1981 Harold Flammer Music

† Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

All: Forgive God, there are many times when we are content to rest in your word—your words of assurance, your words of comfort, your words of abundant grace. Guide us to the places most in need of your love. Guide us to the opportunities most in need of our actions of care. Forgive us for our times of inaction. Forgive us when we quote the words of faith but fail to live them. For your mercy and grace, we thank you. Amen

One: The author of our lives calls us into new life. 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

Help Us Accept Each Other

UMH 560

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.
2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.
4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread. We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Johann G. Walther/Arr. Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: The flowers are donated by Virginia Cohen in honor of the wedding anniversary of her parents, Spence & Helen McCrea

Liturgist: George Ann Wurster

Organist: Robert Wuertz

Pianist: Rebecca Cosford

Ushers: Beau Brandon, Steve Gray, Lon Showley, Russell Toppi, Charles Wurster

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