

A close-up photograph of a Scrabble board. The wooden tiles are arranged to spell out 'THE POWER OF WORDS'. The board features various colored squares: blue for 'TRIPLE LETTER SCORE', light blue for 'DOUBLE LETTER SCORE', and pink for 'DOUBLE WORD SCORE'. A church logo, consisting of 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 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

O For a Thousand Tongues

Tune: AMAZON by Carl G. Glaser

Arr. Mark Hayes

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Call to Worship

One: God is our refuge,

All: our rock and our shelter.

One: The Lord is our hope,

All: who rescues us from trouble.

One: God knows us from birth,

All: nurturing us with love and care.

One: Let us lift our hearts to praise the living God!

All: Let us praise God with every word and action!

Introit

Confession

W & S 3138

Chancel Choir and Congregation

Congregation

We humbly ask the mercy of your love.

Choir

For words we've said and haven't said.

Congregation

We humbly ask the mercy of your love.

Choir

For what we've done and left undone.

Congregation

We humbly ask the mercy of your love.

Choir

For harm we've planned and scars we've left.

Congregation

We humbly ask the mercy of your love.

Choir

For promises we haven't kept.

Congregation

We humbly ask the mercy of your love.

Choir

For words we've said and haven't said.

Congregation

We humbly ask the mercy of your love.

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations

UMH 428

1. For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,
help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,
fear will die and hope increase.
3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span,
may we hallow life's brief span.
4. You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find,
Christ to mind, earth its destiny may find.

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

1 Corinthians 1:10-12; 12:31b & 13:4-8a (NRSVue)

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

If Anybody Asks You

Traditional Spiritual/Arr. Mark Hayes
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Message

Religion & Politics

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

He Hideth My Soul with Claire Delune

Tune: KIRKPATRICK
Quoting Claude Debussy
Arr. Mark Hayes
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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: **Source of truth and love, we yearn for certainty in an uncertain world. Grant us the courage to proclaim the words you place in our mouths. Remind us that your love alone softens the heart and mind, allowing us to receive your mysterious ways. When we fear that others will not see things our way, remind us that we all see in a mirror dimly. Silence the clanging cymbals that distract us, and harken us to your voice once more, that we may abide in your love. Amen.**

One: Rejoice in the good news: God knows us and loves us as we are. God's love heals our wounds, and gives us hope for the time before us. 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**

We Utter Our Cry (v1-2,4,6)

UMH 439

1. We utter our cry: that peace may prevail,
 that earth will survive, and faith must not fail.
 We pray with our life for the world in our care,
 for people diminished by doubt and despair.
2. We cry from the fright of our daily scene
 for strength to say "No" to all that is mean:
 designs bearing chaos, extinction of life,
 all energy wasted on weapons of death.
4. Creator of life, come, share out, we pray,
 your Spirit on earth, revealing the Way
 to leaders conferring round tables for peace,
 that they may from bias and guile be released.
6. Whatever the ill or pressure we face,
 Lord, hearten and heal, give insight and grace
 to think and make peace with each heartbeat and breath,
 choose Christ before Caesar and life before death!

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (MARION)

Arthur H. Messiter
Arr. Mark Hayes and Marian J. Gaspard
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**Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC), The Abingdon Worship Annual,*
*Presbyterian Church of Canada***

Flowers: In recognition of all who assist in Worship
Liturgist: Don Rushing
Guest Composer: Mark Hayes
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Accompanist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Beau Brandon, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight, Lon Showley, 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