



LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

# In Praise of Women who Lead

Uncommon Wisdom

Sunday, September 22, 2024  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

*Adagio*

Allesandro Marcello/Arr. Hopson

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### Call to Worship

One: Beloved, in a world that sometimes criticizes women who lead in the workplace and demeans women who stay home to tend their families, God's uncommon wisdom calls to us:

**All: Recognize the leadership of women!**

One: In a world where some churches still deny and repress the gifts, graces, and callings of women in ministry, God's uncommon wisdom calls to us:

**All: Nurture the leadership of women!**

One: In boardrooms, family meetings, town councils, pulpits, and church committees, women lead us with their voices, their actions, their wisdom, and their strength. And so, God's uncommon wisdom calls to us:

**All: Respect the leadership of women!**

One: For too long, women who lead have been unnamed, underappreciated, and used as free labor. May we listen and act, then, as God's uncommon wisdom calls to us:

**All: Support the leadership of women! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### Congregational Introit

*The Family Prayer Song*

TFWS 2188

1. Come and fill our homes with your presence;  
you alone are worthy of our reverence.

#### Refrain

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
We will serve the Lord.

2. Lord we vow to live holy,  
bowing our knees to you only.

#### Refrain

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
We will serve the Lord.

## Welcome

### † Opening Hymn

*Womb of Life*

TFWS 2046

1. Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart,  
in your arms the world's awakened; you have loved us from the start.  
We, your children, gather 'round you, at the table you prepare.  
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care.
2. Word in flesh, our brother Jesus, born to bring us second birth,  
you have come to stand beside us, knowing weakness, knowing earth.  
Priest who shares our human struggles, Life of Life, and Death of Death,  
Risen Christ, come stand among us, send the Spirit by your breath.
3. Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend.  
When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend.  
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be,  
free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity.
4. Mother, Brother, Holy Partner, Father, Spirit, Only Son:  
We would praise your name forever, One in three, and Three in one.  
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new,  
ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you.

## 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

*Amen*

UMH 904

## WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

### Scripture

Proverbs 31:10-31 (NRSVue)

A woman of strength who can find?  
She is far more precious than jewels.  
The heart of her husband trusts in her,  
and he will have no lack of gain.  
She does him good and not harm  
all the days of her life.  
She seeks wool and flax  
and works with willing hands.  
She is like the ships of the merchant;  
she brings her food from far away.  
She rises while it is still night  
and provides food for her household  
and tasks for her female servants.  
She considers a field and buys it;  
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.  
She girds herself with strength  
and makes her arms strong.  
She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.  
Her lamp does not go out at night.  
She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her hands hold the spindle.  
She opens her hand to the poor  
and reaches out her hands to the needy.  
She is not afraid for her household when it snows,  
for all her household are clothed in crimson.  
She makes herself coverings;  
her clothing is fine linen and purple.  
Her husband is known in the city gates,  
taking his seat among the elders of the land.  
She makes linen garments and sells them;  
she supplies the merchant with sashes.  
Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.  
She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
She looks well to the ways of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children rise up and call her happy;  
her husband, too, and he praises her:  
“Many women have done excellently,



but you surpass them all.”  
Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

## Scriptural Response

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

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

## Anthem

*The First Song of Isaiah*

Jack Noble White  
©1976 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

## Message

*In Praise of Women who Lead*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

## Offertory

*Ave Verum Corpus*

W. A. Mozart  
©1998 Hap Leonard Corp.

## † 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: **O God, we live our lives as best we can—dealing with difficult relationships and situations, putting failures and disappointments behind us, and moving into each new day with as much energy, goodwill, and optimism as we can muster. But here, right now, we seldom have the right answers, we seldom seek your higher wisdom in our**

**lives, we just move ahead. Forgive us for not asking for your insight. Fill us with your wisdom, that we may live lives of goodness and peace. Amen.**

**One:** When we come before God in humility and honesty, God draws near to us with forgiveness and renewed blessing. 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**

*In Unity We Lift Our Song*

TFWS 2221

1. In unity we lift our song of grateful adoration,  
for brothers brave, and sisters strong. What cause for celebration!  
For those whose faithfulness has kept us through distress,  
who've shared with us our plight, who've held us in the night, the blessed congregation.
2. For stories told and told again to every generation,  
to give us strength in times of pain, to give us consolation.  
Our spirits to revive, to keep our dreams alive,  
when we are far from home and evil seasons come; how firm is our foundation.
3. For sacred scriptures handed down, a blessed trust and treasure,  
which give us hope when hope is gone and make us weep with pleasure.  
And when our eyes grow blind and death is close behind,  
we shall recite them still whose words our hearts can fill with hope beyond all measure.
4. For God our way, our bread, our rest, of all these gifts the Giver.  
Our strength, our guide, our nurturing breast whose hand will yet deliver.  
Who keeps us till the day when night shall pass away,  
when hate and fear are gone and all our work is done, and we shall sing forever.

† **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Allegretto*

Antonio Vivaldi/Arr. Hopson

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

**Flowers:** in gratitude for the work of our Church Treasurer, Janet Lind  
**Liturgist:** Lon Showley  
**Organist:** Bob Wuertz  
**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford  
**Ushers:** Cindy Rushing, Gail Chatfield, Ann Davis, Ann Gonsalves, Janet Lind,  
Leigh Kramer, Jean Thomas, Betsy Witt  
**Tech Team:** AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

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**LJUMC Ministry Team**

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director;  
Theresa Erb, Office Manager; Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director;  
Erin Wyer, NS Executive Director