



**LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST**

For Such a Time as This

Uncommon Wisdom

**Sunday, September 29, 2024
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Arr. B. Wolaver
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Call to Worship

One: People of God, divine wisdom guides us to reflect, yes, and also to act. Will you be a people who act with wisdom?

All: We will respond to wisdom's call with our actions.

One: God's wisdom may call you to speak when it's safer to be silent, to resist when it's easier to back down. Will you be a people who act with wisdom?

All: We will respond to wisdom's guidance wherever it takes us.

One: God's wisdom may call us to accountability, to recognize and reconcile when we have missed the mark, and to hold others accountable when they do harm. Will you be a people who act with wisdom?

All: We will respond to wisdom's counsel with humility and grace.

One: People of God, this is the time, here and now and in every moment after, to live out God's uncommon wisdom in the world.

All: We will follow the path of God's love with wisdom as our guide. Amen.

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 – (*Welcome, attendance cards & prayer requests, flowers in celebration of Birthday Season for Zach, Kimmie, Cam & Bob*)

† Opening Hymn

Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past

UMH 117

1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!
2. Under the shadow of thy throne,
still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.
6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

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

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 (NRSVue)

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace, but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and an enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very pole that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hung Haman on the pole that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday, that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Robert Leaf

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Message

For Such a Time as This

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Two Menuets from Sonata in C Major

A. Mozart

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† 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: God of glory, we confess that we have not sought your face. We ignore the needs of the poor and turn away from our neighbor. We allow the gospel to go stale, and hide the light you have given. Forgive us; give us grace. By the renewing gifts of your Spirit, inspire and empower us again to show the wonder of your love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

One: Our Savior is faithful in all his words and gracious in all his deeds. Our Savior upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. 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

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

UMH 150

1. God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance, through the silent fields of space,
we your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you.
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.
2. Proudly rise our modern cities, stately buildings, row on row;
yet their windows, blank, unfeeling, stare on canyoned streets below,
where the lonely drift unnoticed in the city's ebb and flow,
lost to purpose and to meaning, scarcely caring where they go.
3. We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,
facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.
4. As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun.
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

† Benediction

Postlude

Marche Heroïque

William Stickles
©1953 Ethyl Smith Music

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

Flowers: in celebration of Birthday Season for Zach, Kimmie, Cam & Bob
Liturgist: Sal Butera
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

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