



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

**Where You Are:
Embracing the Familiar**

Sunday, January 19, 2025
Second Sunday After the Epiphany
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Hymns of Familiarity and Comfort
Cathy Blickensatff

Call to Worship

One: Be still for a moment. What do you hear? What do you smell? What do you feel under your feet? Beloved, God is here.

All: In the familiar and unfamiliar, God is here with us.

One: Take a moment to look around. Whom do you notice? Who isn't here that you expected to see? Whether this community feels brand new or familiar to you, God is here.

All: In the familiar and unfamiliar, God is here with us.

One: God is here. May we pay attention and discern how God brings us together in the familiar and the unfamiliar to be and become the Body of Christ.

All: May we notice and join in God's work of forming us for community as we worship today. Amen.

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

Blest Be the Dear Uniting Love

UMH 566

1. Blest be the dear uniting love that will not let us part;
our bodies may far off remove, we still are one in heart.
2. Joined in one spirit to our Head, where he appoints we go,
and still in Jesus' footsteps tread, and do his work below.
3. O may we ever walk in him, and nothing know beside,
nothing desire, nothing esteem, but Jesus crucified!
4. We all are one who him receive, and each with each agree,
in him the One, the Truth, we live; blest point of unity!
5. Partakers of the Savior's grace, the same in mind and heart,
nor joy, nor grief, nor time, nor place, nor life, nor death can part.

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.

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (NRSVue)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were gentiles you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

John 2:1-11 (NSRVue)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Special Music

My Little Prayer
Jayson Coleman, Solo

David Archuleta
©2016 Archie Songs

Message

Where You Are: Embracing the Familiar
Deborah Butera, Sal Butera, Jason Coleman, Cyrus Ebrahimi, Ernie Mortensen

Bob Wuertz

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Rose Cottage from "A Gaelic Offering"
Cathy Blickenstaff, Flute

Catherine McMichael
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† Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

Prayer of Confession

All: Lord, we need a miracle today. Like Jesus changing water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana, we need a miracle today. We are tired, Lord, of the hurts of this world. We are discouraged in the face of injustice, war, poverty, and indifference. We need a miracle today, Lord. Your steadfast love, like a mighty mountain will not be moved. Your gifts, as many as the mighty winds, cannot be counted. Your glory, like a mighty torch, will not be put out. Lord, crown us with your love. Show us your glory, that in you we may be moved

One: 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

Standing on the Promises
Cathy Blickenstaff, Flute

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

Flowers: from James McLaughlin in gratitude for his church family
Organist: Bob Wuertz
Flutist: Cathy Blickenstaff
Ushers: Davis Dawson, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight, Lon Showley
Tech Team: AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

LJUMC Ministry Team

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director;
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