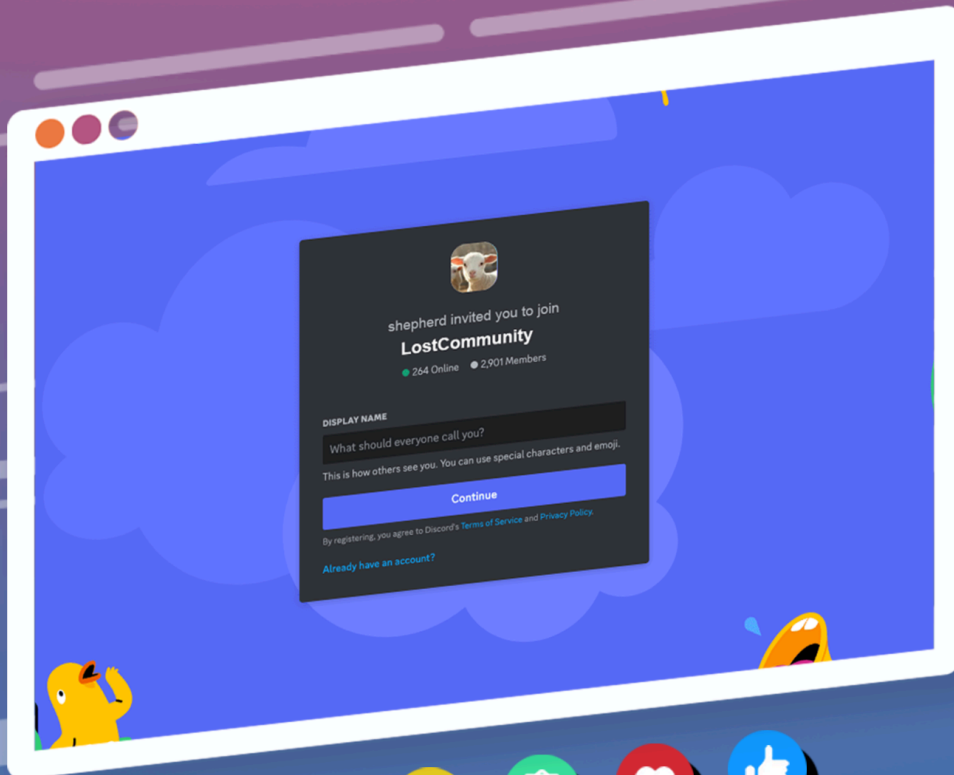


YOU'RE INVITED



#JESUS TRENDING

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 30, 2025

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Fugue

Louis Nicolas Clerambault/Edited Hopson

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Call to Worship

One: When we struggle to live as you teach us, and we fail to answer your call...

All: God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

One: When the truth clogs up in our throat, and we fear what will happen if we speak and if we keep silent...

All: God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

One: When we open our hearts and let the truth of our sorrows, our sin, our joys, and our doubts flow freely...

All: God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

One: When our stubborn hearts encounter the grace that teaches and guides us into a life of trust and joyful obedience...

All: God, your steadfast love surrounds us today and every day. Race to us, and call us to you. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Introit

To Him Who Sits Upon the Throne

Arr. Donald Moore

1994 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

UMH 545

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
3. Though with a scornful wonder we see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

4. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
5. Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

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

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

Arr. Donald Moore

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WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (CEB)

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Jesus told them this parable:

"A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

“When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have more than enough food, but I’m starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.”’ So he got up and went to his father.

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

All Shall Be Well

Mark Hayes

Commissioned for the LJUMC Chancel Choir

©2025 Hinshaw Music

Premiered at LJUMC April 28, 2024, Mark Hayes Conducting

Message

You’re Invited

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Johann Gootfried Walther
Edited Hal Hopson
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† Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Prayer of Confession

All: Gracious God, we confess that we have wandered from your care, seeking belonging in places that leave us feeling empty. We have neglected the community you've invited us into, choosing isolation or rejection over connection. Forgive us, Lord, for not responding to your invitation. Gather us in once again and help us to build your community of love and grace. Amen.

One: Everything old has passed away. In Christ, you are a new creation, full of mercy and grace. 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

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

TFWS 2223

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard human dignity and save each man's pride.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Fugue in C Major

G.F. Handel/Edited Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: In recognition of Rebecca Cosford for her wonderful music and service to the church
Liturgist: Sal Butera
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Rod Betts, Dave Grundies, Dan Martin, Peter McCreight, Russell Toppi
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