LA JOLLA UNITED METHODIST

Blinded By the Light

Sunday, May 4, 2025 Third Sunday of Easter www.lajol/aunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Peaceful Piano #22

Mark Hayes ©2023 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Call to Worship

| O A | | "The Force will be with you, always." We know our God is guiding us through the challenges of life. |
|---------|-----|--|
| 0 | | Even though we know "Fear is the path to the dark side." In times of uncertainty, we "do or do not, there is no try." |
| A | 11: | We choose love and faith over fear and distrust. |
| Ο | | When we face trials, we remind each other, "Never tell me the odds." We know that "the greatest teacher, failure is," as we learn from our mistakes and grow in faith and understanding. |
| A | | With God, all possibilities are present, and we persevere with hope. |
| 0 | | "You must unlearn what you have learned" as we let go of past burdens. We won't be the church by "fighting what we hate, but by saving what we love." |
| A | | We embrace new life and transformation in Christ. |
| 0 | | "Rebellions are built on hope," and our hope is in God's persistent love. Empower us to be agents of change in the world, striving for justice, peace, and love in God's holy name. "This is the Way." |
| A | | We gather in peace, empowered by the Holy Spirit. |
| 0 | ne: | God says to us, "I love you." |
| A | 11: | The people reply, "I know." May the Faith Be With Us Always. Amen. |
| Introit | | <i>Time Now to Gather</i> John D. Hormar ©1998 Abingdon Press |
| Welcome | | |

† Opening HymnWelcomeW & \$ 31521.Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin

to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in, to be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,

Refrain

Singing welcome, welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace. All are welcome the love of God to share 'cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

 Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast, where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least, and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,

Refrain

Singing welcome, welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace. All are welcome the love of God to share 'cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

 Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one, a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem, where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice!

Refrain

Crying welcome, welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace. All are welcome the love of God to share 'cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

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

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Acts 9:1-20 (NRSVue)

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard

the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

John 21:1-19 (NRSVue)

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them

and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Anthem

Pass Your Bread

Dirk Damonte ©1991 Excelsis Music

Message

Blinded by the Light

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

| Offertory | When Morning Gilds the Skies | J.B. Taylor ©2022 Lorenz Publishing Co. |
|---|--|--|
| † 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 - Liturgist

- All: God of the universe, we come tired. We come hopeful. We come looking for a spark in the dark. Help us leave ignorance behind, as we learn to love as you would have us love. Heal our vision when false piety blinds us, as Saul was blinded before us. Gather us—the dreamers, the warriors, the ones still holding on. By your Spirit, surround us and bind us and make us one: one with Christ, one with each other, one with every broken piece of your beautiful world and galaxies unending. Shine through us, send us out, and help us never lose sight of your light. Amen.
- One: The time for weeping is over, for joy comes with the morning. Rejoice, people of God! We have been called together: rebels and dreamers, the faithful and the wandering, the burdened and the bold, to be God's people in a broken world. We are inspired and empowered to be the spark that guides the way. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
- All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Thanksgiving and Holy CommunionMusical Setting AW & \$ 3171Online worshipers are invited to select elements including bread and juice (or similar) from their homes to
participate in Holy Communion. Please wait until directed before receiving your elements.

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 tresspasses, 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.

Communion Song

Broken for Me

TFWS 2263

Refrain

Broken for me, broken for you, the body of Jesus, broken for you.

 He offered his body; he poured out his soul; Jesus was broken that we might be whole.

Refrain

Broken for me, broken for you, the body of Jesus, broken for you.

2. Come to my table and with me dine; eat of my bread and drink of my wine.

Refrain

Broken for me, broken for you, the body of Jesus, broken for you.

3. This is my body given for you; eat it, remembering I died for you.

Refrain

Broken for me, broken for you, the body of Jesus, broken for you.

4. This is my blood I shed for you, for your forgiveness, making you new.

Refrain

Broken for me, broken for you, the body of Jesus, broken for you.

Prayer After Communion

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† Closing Hymn

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (v1-5)

UMH 57

- O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
- My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.
- Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

- 4. He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free; his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.
- He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive; the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

† Benediction

Postlude

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Arr. Hal H. Hopson ©2006 Hope Publishing Co.

Liturgical elements from Discipleship Ministries (UMC) and Rev. Jeremy Smith, HackingChristianity.net

| Flowers: | In celebration of Tom & Kathy Dombroski's 8th wedding anniversary | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Liturgist: | Lon Showley | | |
| Organist: | Robert Wuertz | | |
| Pianist: | Rebecca Cosford | | |
| Ushers: | Cindy Rushing, Gail Chatfield, Ann Davis, Ann Gonsalves, Janet Lind, Leigh Kramer, | | |
| | Jean Thomas, Betsy Witt | | |
| Communion Servers: Ann Davis, Cyrus Ebrahimi, Randy Seward | | | |
| 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