

A hand holding a magnifying glass over a scenic mountain landscape. The magnifying glass shows a close-up of a mountain valley with a lake and trees. The background is a blurred mountain range.

LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

# Curiosity Saved the Cat

Sunday, May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Gathering Music

*All the Pretty Little Horses*

African American Lullaby

Arr. Chrissy Ricker

©2020 Chrissy Ricker

### Call to Worship

One: Our help is in God,

**All: who calls us to worship.**

One: Our hope is in love,

**All: that calls us to care.**

One: Come, let us bring our full selves to worship.

**All: Let us bring our full love and care.**

### Introit

*Praise! Praise!*

Chester G. Allen/Arr. Burroughs

Dorian Bells

©2012 Soundforth/Lorenz

### Welcome

### † Opening Hymn

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

UMH 548

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north;  
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.
3. In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;  
both male and female heirs are made, and all are kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;  
all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

### 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

*Water, River, Spirit, Grace*

TFWS 2253

## WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

### Scripture

Romans 12:1-8 (NRSVue)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

### Scriptural Response

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

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

### Anthem

*For Those Tears I Died*

Marsha J. Stevens  
©1972 Bud John Songs, Inc.

### Message

*Curiosity Saved the Cat*

Rev. Sarah Heath

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

*Be Still, My Soul*  
Dorian Bells

Jean Sibelius/Arr. Bill Ingrahm  
©2016 Composers Music 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

**All: Rock of ages, be our fortress and our shelter in troubled times. Be our strength and our courage when we are afraid. Be our grace and our forgiveness when we fall short. Be our inspiration and our guide when we strive to serve you and your world fully. In hope and gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

One: Our help is in God, the maker of heaven and earth. God is our rock, a fortress 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

*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.

**Postlude**

*Psalm 19*

Benedetto Marcello  
Arr. Hopson  
2006 Hope Publishing Co.

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

**Flowers:** In celebration of the 32nd wedding anniversary of Nick & Rebecca Cosford

**Liturgist:** Kathy Dombrowski

**Guest Clergy:** Rev. Sarah Heath

**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