

A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres and one red sphere. The silver spheres are in motion, having just struck the red sphere, which is swinging away to the right. The background is a dark, gradient blue.

  
**LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST**

**And... Action!!**

**Sunday, May 25, 2025**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Gathering Music

*You Raise Me Up*

Arr. Graham and Lovland  
©2022 Peermusic Ltd.

### Call to Worship

One: In the beginning, the voice that whispered us into being still whispers, saying...

**All: Let there be light!**

One: In the wilderness, the voice that fed us from the heavens still feeds us. saying...

**All: Let there be light!**

One: In the story we share with this God of mystery and amazing love, the voice calls to us each and every morning, saying...

**All: Let there be light!**

### Introit

*Beautiful Savior! Lord of All the Nations!*

Arr. Donald Moore  
©1994 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

### Welcome

### † Opening Hymn

*America the Beautiful*

UMH 696

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain;  
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,  
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
2. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine,  
till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.
3. O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years  
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

### 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*

Arr. Donald Moore  
©1994 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

## WE HERE OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

### Scripture

John 14:23-29 (NRSVue)

Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.

### Scriptural Response

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

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

### Anthem

*Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones*

Hatch/Alexander/Naish  
Arr. Keith Christopher  
©1996 Sony/ATV Tunes LLC

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

*Shenandoah*

American Folk Song  
Arr. Phillip Keveren  
©2018 Hal Leonard

### † 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 love, help us keep your word and love others as we ought. For we long to let go of our suffering and offer forgiveness to those we have shut out of our hearts. Send your Advocate to us once more, that we may feel Christ's promised peace and the release it brings. May it be so, O God. May it be so.**

One: The One who is faithful will wipe away every tear and make all things new. Walk in the light of the Lamb, in whom there is no darkness at all. Receive grace from the one who brings us peace. 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

*For the Healing of the Nations*

UMH 428

1. For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;

- to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,  
help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,  
fear will die and hope increase.
  3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span,  
may we hallow life's brief span.
  4. You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find,  
earth its destiny may find.

#### † **Benediction**

#### **Postlude**

*Armed Forces Medley*

Peggy Duquesnel  
©Duquesnel Music Publishing

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

- Flowers:** In loving memory of Donald John Leiffer's birthday by parents Murray & Dorothy Leiffer  
through a perpetual gift made to LJUMC Foundation
- Liturgist:** Deborah 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

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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