



LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

# Let the Mystery Be

God Is in the Radio

Sunday, July 6, 2025  
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

# WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

*Poem and Prayer*

M. Dorian

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## Call to Worship

One: One: Come as you are—curious, uncertain, burdened, or bold.

**All: We come with our questions, our hopes, and our longing.**

One: God does not demand perfect answers, but welcomes honest hearts.

**All: We come to listen, to learn, and to be surprised by God's inspiring presence.**

One: Here, titles and status fall away. Here, we are simply beloved.

**All: We come to worship the One who humbles the proud and lifts up the weary.**

One: So come—set down your need to impress. Bring your wonder, your doubt, your faith, and your longing.

**All: Come! Let us worship the God of holy mystery.**

## Congregational Introit

*Surely the Presence*

UMH #328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;

I can feel his mighty power and his grace.

I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;

surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

## Welcome

### † Opening Hymn

*Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

UMH #581

(Tune: HYMN TO JOY #89)

1. Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed: we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart, consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.
2. Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; Still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.
3. As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,

Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to tireless striving your abundant life to share.

4. Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go  
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know, and live.

### **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 THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

### **Scripture**

Micah 3:5-12 (NSRVue)

Thus says the Lord concerning the prophets  
who lead my people astray,  
who cry "Peace"  
when they have something to eat  
but declare war against those  
who put nothing into their mouths.  
Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision,  
and darkness to you, without revelation.  
The sun shall go down upon the prophets,  
and the day shall be black over them;  
the seers shall be disgraced  
and the diviners put to shame;  
they shall all cover their lips,  
for there is no answer from God.  
But as for me, I am filled with power,  
with the spirit of the Lord,  
and with justice and might,  
to declare to Jacob his transgression  
and to Israel his sin.

Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob  
and chiefs of the house of Israel,  
who abhor justice  
and pervert all equity,  
who build Zion with blood  
and Jerusalem with wrong!  
Its rulers give judgment for a bribe;  
its priests teach for a price;  
its prophets give oracles for money;  
yet they lean upon the Lord and say,  
“Surely the Lord is with us!  
No harm shall come upon us.”  
Therefore because of you  
Zion shall be plowed as a field;  
Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,  
and the mountain of the temple a wooded height.

Matthew 23:1-12 (NSRVue)

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’s seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it, but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others, but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others, for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father, the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

### Scriptural Response

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

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

### Special Music

*The Water is Wide*

M.Hayes

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### Message

*Let the Mystery Be*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

*River Flows in You*

Yurima

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### † 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 grace and truth, we confess that we long for easy answers. We want to appear wise, certain, and in control. We speak when we should listen. We claim when we should wonder. We hide behind titles, opinions, and pride, forgetting that your way is humility, your gift is mystery, and your love meets us in our questions. Forgive us, O God. Rescue us from the need to impress. Teach us to rest in the unknown and to trust in your gracious spirit, that holds all things together. Amen.**

One: Even when we cannot see the whole picture, God's love cradles us still. Even when mystery lingers, God's prevenient grace is already here. 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 Communion

Musical Setting A

UMH 17

*Online 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 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.

1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.
2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

**Prayer After Communion****WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD****† Closing Hymn***Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

UMH #664

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended, O now be extended  
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.  
The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us  
to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.
2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.  
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

**† Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Sonata in A Major*

D. Scarlatti

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

**Flowers:** Donated by Tom & Cherie Huse in celebration of our summer season and our freedom

**Liturgist:** Rebecca Tseng-Smith

**Guest Choir**

**Director:** Rachel Alessio

**Pianist:** Randy Seward

**Ushers:** Don Lincoln, Dan Martin, Peter McCreight

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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