



LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

# Unconditionally

God Is in the Radio

Sunday, July 20, 2025  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Gathering Music

*It Is Well With My Soul* Philip P. Bliss/Arr. Marilyn Ham  
with excerpt from Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* © 1990 Lillenas Publ Co.

### Call to Worship

One: We come to worship the God who creates, redeems, and sustains us—whose love never lets us go.

**All: We come to worship the One whose love remains—even when we struggle to believe it.**

One: Fear fades. Doubt softens. Grace abides.

**All: We come to worship the God who loves us without condition and calls us by name.**

One: As silence holds hidden music, as winter holds hidden spring, so too does God hold us—unseen but never absent.

**All: We gather today to remember: there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.**

### 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

*I Know Whom I Have Believed*

UMH #714

1. I know not why God's wondrous grace to me he hath made known,  
nor why, unworthy, Christ in love redeemed me for his own.

#### *Refrain*

But I know whom I have believed,  
and am persuaded that he is able  
to keep that which I've committed  
unto him against that day.

2. I know not how this saving faith to me he did impart,  
nor how believing in his word wrought peace within my heart.

*Refrain*

But I know whom I have believed,  
and am persuaded that he is able  
to keep that which I've committed  
unto him against that day.

3. I know not how the Spirit moves, convincing us of sin,  
revealing Jesus through the word, creating faith in him.

*Refrain*

But I know whom I have believed,  
and am persuaded that he is able  
to keep that which I've committed  
unto him against that day.

4. I know not when my Lord may come, at night or noontide fair,  
nor if I walk the vale with him, or meet him in the air.

*Refrain*

But I know whom I have believed,  
and am persuaded that he is able  
to keep that which I've committed  
unto him against that day.

**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.

We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around;  
let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

## WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

### Scripture

Romans 8:31-39 (NRSVue)

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Scriptural Response

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

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

### Special Music

*Perhaps Love*  
Jayson Coleman, soloist

John Denver  
©1980 Cherry Lane Music

### Message

*Unconditionally*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

*O Worship the King* Johann M. Haydn/Arr. Melody Bober  
©2000 Lillenas Publishing Company (SESAC)

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 relentless love, we confess that we often struggle to trust what we cannot earn. We doubt that love can be given without limits. We hold ourselves back, measuring our worth, questioning your grace, and assuming your love will leave when we fall short. Forgive us, O God. Soften the defenses we've built. Set us free from fear. Teach us again that your love is unshaken, your welcome is wide, and your grace goes before us. Amen.**

One: Rest assured, there is no failure deep enough, no fear strong enough, no distance far enough to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. 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

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
 consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
 I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
 thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
 how great thou art, how great thou art!  
 Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
 how great thou art, how great thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
 and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
 when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
 and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!

3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin;

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!

† **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Revive Us Again*

John J Husband/Arr. Mark Hayes

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

**Flowers:** In appreciation of Laura Williams sharing her musical talents and helping to lead worship this summer

**Liturgist:** Lon Showley

**Pianist:** Laura Williams

**Ushers:** Steve Gray, Don Lincoln, Dan Martin, Peter McCreight, Lon Showley

**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