



LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

Faith  
Dearly Beloved

Sunday, August 17, 2025  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

# WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

*In the Garden*

Gene Robinson  
Public Domain

## Call to Worship

One: By faith, God's people passed through the Red Sea. By faith, the walls of Jericho fell.

**All: We come in faith, calling on the name of God to save us.**

One: Is a cloud rising in the west? Is the south wind blowing?

**All: We come in faith, calling on the name of God to save us.**

One: We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, who show us the way to run the race set before us.

**All: Strengthen us, Holy One. Let your face shine upon us and show us the meaning of grace.**

## 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

*Guide My Feet*

TFWS 2208

1. Guide my feet while I run this race. Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!
2. Hold my hand while I run this race. Hold my hand while I run this race.  
Hold my hand while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!
3. Stand by me while I run this race. Stand by me while I run this race.  
Stand by me while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!
4. I'm your child while I run this race. I'm your child while I run this race.  
I'm your child while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!
5. Search my heart while I run this race. Search my heart while I run this race.  
Search my heart while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

6. Guide my feet while I run this race. Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

### **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 HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

### **Scripture**

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 (CEB)

By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if they were on dry land, but when the Egyptians tried it, they were drowned.

By faith Jericho's walls fell after the people marched around them for seven days.

By faith Rahab the prostitute wasn't killed with the disobedient because she welcomed the spies in peace.

What more can I say? I would run out of time if I told you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith they conquered kingdoms, brought about justice, realized promises, shut the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped from the edge of the sword, found strength in weakness, were mighty in war, and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured and refused to be released so they could gain a better resurrection.

But others experienced public shame by being taunted and whipped; they were even put in chains and in prison. They were stoned to death, they were cut in two, and they died by being murdered with swords. They went around wearing the skins of sheep and goats, needy, oppressed, and mistreated. The

world didn't deserve them. They wandered around in deserts, mountains, caves, and holes in the ground.

All these people didn't receive what was promised, though they were given approval for their faith. God provided something better for us so they wouldn't be made perfect without us.

So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.

### Scriptural Response

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

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

### Special Music

*Marchin' On Up*  
Lisa Corpron, soloist

Robert Lowry/Arr. Mark Hayes  
©2000 Alfred Music

### Message

*Dearly Beloved: Faith*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

*Chaconne*

Louis Couperin/Arr. Hal Hopson  
©2006 Hope Publishing

### † 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:** Divine God, we try to grow happily, patiently, and faithfully in the soil you have prepared for us. You feed us, shelter us, and provide for our daily needs. Yet, we often fail to offer you the fruit of our harvest. We act as though we were abandoned children, trying to make it on our own. We feel forsaken, attacked, cut down by our enemies, and neglected in the wilderness of our lives. Yet, through it all, you remain faithful. Renew our lives once more, and we will call your name on high.

One: Be assured that God's love is sufficient. In the warmth of the sun, the fertility of the soil, and the refreshment of life-giving water, we have been given all that we need. God hears our cries, and comes to save us. Through Christ we may lay aside our sins; through Christ, we know we are safe. 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

*We Walk by Faith*

TFWS 2196

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight: No gracious words we hear of him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.
2. We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod; yet in his promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound; to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found:
4. That when our life of faith is done in realms of clearer light we may behold you as you are in full and endless sight.
5. We walk by faith, and not by sight: No gracious words we hear of him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.

### † Benediction

### Postlude

*My Tribute*

Andre Crouch/Arr. Mark Hayes  
©2020 Lorenz Publishing Co.

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

**Flowers:** Flowers are donated in honor of Sal Butera's birthday, August 13  
**Liturgist:** Lisa Corpron  
**Organist:** Bob Wuertz  
**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford  
**Ushers:** Cindy Rushing, Gail Chatfield, Ann Davis, Ann Gonsalves, Janet Lind,  
Leigh Kramer, Jean Thomas  
**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