

LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Unshaken

Dearly Beloved

Sunday, August 24, 2025
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Air on the G String
(Orchestral Suite No.3 in D)

J.S.Bach
1999 Hal Leonard Corp.

Call to Worship

One: Dearly beloved, we gather today to encounter God.

All: We do not come expecting to be terrified or dismayed but to be welcomed and embraced.

One: We gather today to witness the gospel at work among us.

All: We come to join the assembly of the kingdom of God, to learn to live out God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

One: We gather today to declare our faith in God's unshakeable kingdom.

All: We come with grateful hearts, trusting in the secure foundation of God's steadfast love at work among us. Thanks be to 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

Welcome

W & S 3152

1. Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin
to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,
to be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,

Refrain

Singing welcome, welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace
All are welcome the love of God to share 'cause all of us are welcome here;
all are welcome in this place.

2. Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,

Refrain

Singing welcome, welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace
All are welcome the love of God to share 'cause all of us are welcome here;
all are welcome in this place.

3. Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice!

Refrain

Crying welcome, welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome the love of God to share 'cause all of us are welcome here;
all are welcome in this place.

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 12:18-29 (CEB)

You haven't drawn near to something that can be touched: a burning fire, darkness, shadow, a whirlwind, a blast of a trumpet, and a sound of words that made the ones who heard it beg that there wouldn't be one more word. They couldn't stand the command, If even a wild animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned. The sight was so frightening that Moses said, "I'm terrified and shaking!"

But you have drawn near to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem, to countless angels in a festival gathering, to the assembly of God's firstborn children who are registered in heaven,

to God the judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous who have been made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better than Abel's blood.

See to it that you don't resist the one who is speaking. If the people didn't escape when they refused to listen to the one who warned them on earth, how will we escape if we reject the one who is warning from heaven? His voice shook the earth then, but now he has made a promise: Still once more I will shake not only the earth but heaven also. The words "still once more" reveal the removal of what is shaken—the things that are part of this creation—so that what isn't shaken will remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that can't be shaken, let's continue to express our gratitude. With this gratitude, let's serve in a way that is pleasing to God with respect and awe, because our God really is a consuming fire.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Special Music

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

Arr. Lloyd Larson
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Message

Dearly Beloved: Unshaken

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Peaceful Piano #18

Mark Hayes
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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: Almighty God, You have set before us the path but we have wandered on our own to try to find our way. Remind us, O God, that we are always your children, that we are never fully grown up in your sight, that we always have much to learn. Help us to seek you every day, to acknowledge that we need your wisdom and guidance, and help us to return to the path and walk with you. In the name of Christ, who is our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. Amen.

One: Christ is our hope as we trust in God and God's mercy. Dearly beloved, stand tall in the light of God's 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

My Hope Is Built

UMH 368

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

Refrain

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

3. His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!

Refrain

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Jupiter (from The Planets)

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

Flowers: donated by Tom & Cherie Huse in celebration of their 36th wedding anniversary
Liturgist: Tom Huse
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