



LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

Love  
Dearly Beloved

Sunday, August 31, 2025  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

*O Had I Jubal's Lyre*

G.F. Handel/Arr. Jopson  
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### Call to Worship

One: Children of God, when we witness the needs of strangers and listen to the struggles of our friends, remember:

**All: Love is the greatest commandment.**

One: When we hear the struggles of those in prison and recognize the suffering of people near and far, remember:

**All: Love is the greatest commandment.**

One: When temptations to hoard more money, more power, and more influence surround us on every side, remember:

**All: Love is the greatest commandment.**

One: As we gather for worship, remember: God is here among us, surrounding us with love and forming us to live in love everywhere we go.

**All: We choose to cooperate with God's love today and every day so that the world will know who we are wherever we go and whatever we do. Amen.**

### 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

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

UMH 557

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

4. When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

## **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 13:1-8, 15-16 (CEB)

Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place. Marriage must be honored in every respect, with no cheating on the relationship, because God will judge the sexually immoral person and the person who commits adultery. Your way of life should be free from the love of money, and you should be content with what you have. After all, he has said, I will never leave you or abandon you. This is why we can confidently say,

*The Lord is my helper,  
and I won't be afraid.  
What can people do to me?*

Remember your leaders who spoke God's word to you. Imitate their faith as you consider the way their lives turned out. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

So let's continually offer up a sacrifice of praise through him, which is the fruit from our lips that confess his name. Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.

## Scriptural Response

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

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

## Special Music

*When They Were Friends*  
Joyce Theilacker

Shawna Edwards  
©2024 Shawna Belt Edwards

## Message

*Dearly Beloved: Love*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

## Offertory

*Interlude XIII*

Mark Dorian  
©2007 Dorian Music

## † 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

One: Knowing that our God journeys with us in our confusion, our doubts, our failings, our struggles, we now come humbly before God to ask for mercy. For the times we fail to offer hospitality to those in our world who suffer injustice, oppression, and poverty, we pray:

**All: God, have mercy on us and your people.**

One: For the times we lack courage to address the causes of injustice, oppression, and poverty, we pray to our God:

**All: God, have mercy on us and on your people.**

One: For the times we give in to despair and resignation when confronted with the injustice of our world, we pray to our God:

**All: God, have mercy on us and on your people.**

One: For the times we allow our fears to triumph over the call to solidarity, we pray to our God:

**All: God, have mercy on us and on your people.**

**Merciful God, receive our petitions. Heal the brokenness in our hearts and in our world caused by injustice, indifference, selfishness, and fear. Open our hearts to hear the cries of your suffering people. Support us as we seek to respond in mutual love and hospitality. Amen.**

One: Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. In faith, you have made your humble confession before the living God who continues to offer us forgiveness through Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. In the name of Jesus Christ, you 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

*The Summons*

TFWS 2130

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

† **Benediction**

**Postlude** *Sonata in D Major (K. 288)* Domenico Scarlatti/Edited Hopson  
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**Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.**

**Flowers:** donated by Ann Davis & Gary Simpson in celebration of the wedding of Ann's granddaughter, Kassidy to Eric on August 31st in Farmington Hills, MI  
**Liturgist:** Sal Butera  
**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

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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