



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Lament

Call & Response

Sunday, September 21, 2025
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Lentamente

Sergei Rachmaninoff/Arr. Hopson
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Call to Worship

One: When we are surrounded on every side, wondering which way is up and which way is down...

All: Help us, God, for the glory of your name.

One: When we question which way to go and how to follow God's path for us...

All: Help us, God, for the glory of your name.

One: When we find our rest in God and long for others to know the sweet peace of God's embrace...

All: Help us, God, for the glory of your name.

One: Today, as we gather for worship, may we come ready to listen and discern God's help that meets us right where we are.

All: Help us, God, to receive your help and to extend your help to our neighbors, all for the glory of your name.

Congregational Introit

I Will Call Upon the Lord

TFWS 2002

I will call upon the Lord **I will call upon the Lord**
who is worthy to be praised. **who is worthy to be praised.**
So shall I be saved from my enemies. **So shall I be saved from my enemies.**
I will call upon the Lord.

I will call upon the Lord **I will call upon the Lord**
who is worthy to be praised. **who is worthy to be praised.**
So shall I be saved from my enemies. **So shall I be saved from my enemies.**
I will call upon the Lord.

The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock;
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock;
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

Welcome

1. I want a principle within of watchful, godly fear,
a sensibility of sin, a pain to feel it near.
I want the first approach to feel of pride or wrong desire,
to catch the wandering of my will, and quench the kindling fire.
2. From thee that I no more may stray, no more thy goodness grieve,
grant me the filial awe, I pray, the tender conscience give.
Quick as the apple of an eye, O God, my conscience make;
awake my soul when sin is nigh, and keep it still awake.
3. Almighty God of truth and love, to me thy power impart;
the mountain from my soul remove, the hardness from my heart.
O may the least omission pain my reawakened soul,
and drive me to that blood again, which makes the wounded whole.

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 (*Sung responsively*)

Our Father Our Father	who art in heaven, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.	Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy kingdom come,	thy will be done, thy will be done,
on earth on earth	as it is in heaven. As it is in heaven.
Give us this day Give us this day	the food we need the food we need;
And forgive our sins And forgive our sins	as we forgive those as we forgive those
who sin against us all,	who sin against us all.
And lead us not And lead us not	into temptation into temptation
But deliver us But deliver us	from evil from evil
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and	the glory forever
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever	
And ever And ever	And ever And ever

Our Father Our Father	who art in heaven, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.	

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Psalm 79:1-9 (NRSVue)

O God, the nations have come into your inheritance;
they have defiled your holy temple;
they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.
They have given the bodies of your servants
to the birds of the air for food,
the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth.
They have poured out their blood like water
all around Jerusalem,
and there was no one to bury them.
We have become a taunt to our neighbors,
mocked and derided by those around us.
How long, O Lord? Will you be angry forever?
Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?
Pour out your anger on the nations
that do not know you
and on the kingdoms
that do not call on your name.
For they have devoured Jacob
and laid waste his habitation.
Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors;
let your compassion come speedily to meet us,
for we are brought very low.
Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us and forgive our sins,
for your name's sake.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Arr. Boesiger and McDonald
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Message

Lament

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Prelude in C Major

J.S. Bach

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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: Why do you stay silent when scoffers say, “Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?” Your people need you, Merciful One. We need you. Our souls are wellsprings of sorrow and we have shed rivers of tears. Revive our souls, God of our salvation, for in you alone do we renew our strength. Come speedily to us once more and reveal your glory to us, that we find where our true help lies. Amen.

One: Know that there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul. Rejoice and be glad, for God’s compassion comes speedily to meet us. 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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

UMH 400

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Be of Good Courage

G. P. Telemann/Arr. Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: Given in gratitude for the Memorial Hall decorating team
Liturgist: Rod Betts
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Rod Betts, Dave Grundies, Don Lincoln, Dan Martin, Peter McCreight
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