



  
LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

# Persistent Faith

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Sunday, October 19, 2025  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

# WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

**Gathering Music**

*Widmung*

Robert Schumann  
©1999 Hal Leonard Corp.

## Call to Worship

One: Oh, how I love your will, dear Lord. I meditate on your wisdom all day long.

**All: Your teaching makes me wiser each day. Your instruction helps me become my truest self.**

One: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

**All: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light that shines on my path.**

## Congregational Introit

*God Will Make a Way*

CCLI Son # 458620  
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## Welcome

### † Opening Hymn

*Lord, Speak to Me*

UMH 463

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone;  
as thou hast sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.
2. O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the rock, and strong in thee,  
I may stretch out a loving hand to wrestlers with the troubled sea.
3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart;  
and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.
4. O fill me with thy fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.
5. O use me, Lord, use even me, just as thou wilt, and when, and where,  
until thy blessed face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

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

Our Father <b>Our Father</b>	who art in heaven, <b>who art in heaven,</b>
<b>Hallowed be Thy name.</b>	

## WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

### Scripture

1 Corinthians 3:1-11 (CEB)

Brothers and sisters, I couldn't talk to you like spiritual people but like unspiritual people, like babies in Christ. I gave you milk to drink instead of solid food, because you weren't up to it yet. Now you are still not up to it because you are still unspiritual. When jealousy and fighting exist between you, aren't you unspiritual and living by human standards? When someone says, "I belong to Paul," and someone else says, "I belong to Apollos," aren't you acting like people without the Spirit? After all, what is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants who helped you to believe. Each one had a role given to them by the Lord: I planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow. Because of this, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but the only one who is anything is God who makes it grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together, but each one will receive their own reward for their own labor. We are God's coworkers, and you are God's field, God's building.

I laid a foundation like a wise master builder according to God's grace that was given to me, but someone else is building on top of it. Each person needs to pay attention to the way they build on it. No one can lay any other foundation besides the one that is already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Luke 18:1-8 (CEB)

Jesus was telling them a parable about their need to pray continuously and not to be discouraged. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him, asking, ‘Give me justice in this case against my adversary.’ For a while he refused but finally said to himself, I don’t fear God or respect people, but I will give this widow justice because she keeps bothering me. Otherwise, there will be no end to her coming here and embarrassing me.” The Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. Won’t God provide justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he be slow to help them? I tell you, he will give them justice quickly. But when the Human One comes, will he find faithfulness on earth?”

**Scriptural Response**

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

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

**Anthem**

*Be Thou My Vision*

Arr. Tom Fettke  
©1993 Pilot Point Music

**Message**

*Persistent Faith*

Rev. Craig Dorval

**WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST**

**Response to the Word**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**

*Lament*

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

**All:** Gracious God, we confess that we do not meditate on your commands and teachings all day long. We do not keep your word before us always and in all things. Instead, we turn away from your demanding truth and wander toward easier options. Forgive us we pray, for pursuing our own desires rather than yours. Forgive us for growing weary in following you; for failing to pray and work tirelessly for justice; for losing hope in your power to transform the powers of this world. Tune our ears to the sound of your justice. Turn our hearts to your commandments and word of grace. Do not remember our sin, but remember your mercy forever. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

One: Friends, God promises to forgive us, to put our sins out of God's own mind and heart. In this way, God gives us not just a second chance but a new beginning. Believe the good news of the gospel: 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

*Standing on the Promises*

UMH 374

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King, through eternal ages let his praises ring; glory in the highest I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Stand - - - ing, stand - - - ing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
stand - - - ing, stand - - - ing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Stand - - - ing, stand - - - ing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
stand - - - ing, stand - - - ing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to him eternally by love's strong cord, overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Stand - - - ing, stand - - - ing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
stand - - - ing, stand - - - ing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit's call, resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Stand - - - ing, stand - - - ing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
stand - - - ing, stand - - - ing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

† **Benediction**

**Postlude**

Fugue in C Major

G.F. Handel/Edited Hopson  
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

**Flowers:** donated by Russ & Lisa Corpron in celebration of their 7 year anniversary  
**Liturgist:** Sal Butera  
**Organist:** Robert Wuertz  
**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford  
**Ushers:** Rod Betts, Steve Gray, Don Lincoln, Russ Corpron  
**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