



  
LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

# Humble Faith

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Sunday, October 26, 2025  
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

**Gathering Music**

*Be Thou My Vision*

Arr. Hal Hopson  
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**Call to Worship** (*Joel 2, Luke 18*)

One: The Spirit is here,

**All: bringing vision and hope for our world.**

One: Christ lifts us up,

**All: welcoming us with loving arms.**

One: God showers the earth,

**All: nourishing all creation with grace.**

One: Sense the Spirit moving within and among us.

**All: Feel Christ's presence healing and blessing us.**

One: As we gather in worship this day,

**All: we receive the showering love of God.**

**Congregational Introit**

*God Will Make a Way*

CCLI Song #458620  
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**Welcome**

† **Opening Hymn**

*When Our Confidence Is Shaken*

UMH 505

1. When our confidence is shaken in beliefs we thought secure,  
when the spirit in its sickness seeks but cannot find a cure,  
God is active in the tensions of a faith not yet mature.
2. Solar systems, void of meaning, freeze the spirit into stone;  
always our researches lead us to the ultimate unknown.  
Faith must die, or come full circle to its source in God alone.
3. In the discipline of praying, when it's hardest to believe;  
in the drudgery of caring, when it's not enough to grieve;  
faith, maturing, learns acceptance of the insights we receive.

4. God is love, and thus redeems us in the Christ we crucify;  
this is God's eternal answer to the world's eternal why.  
May we in this faith maturing be content to live and die!

## 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

Matthew 26:6-13 (CEB)

When Jesus was at Bethany visiting the house of Simon, who had a skin disease, a woman came to him with a vase made of alabaster containing very expensive perfume. She poured it on Jesus' head while he was sitting at dinner. Now when the disciples saw it they were angry and said, "Why this waste? This perfume could have been sold for a lot of money and given to the poor."

But Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said, "Why do you make trouble for the woman? She's done a good thing for me. You always have the poor with you, but you won't always have me. By

pouring this perfume over my body she's prepared me to be buried. I tell you the truth that wherever in the whole world this good news is announced, what she's done will also be told in memory of her."

Luke 18:9-14 (CEB)

Jesus told this parable to certain people who had convinced themselves that they were righteous and who looked on everyone else with disgust: "Two people went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself with these words, 'God, I thank you that I'm not like everyone else—crooks, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of everything I receive.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He wouldn't even lift his eyes to look toward heaven. Rather, he struck his chest and said, 'God, show mercy to me, a sinner.' I tell you, this person went down to his home justified rather than the Pharisee. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up."

### Scriptural Response

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

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

**Anthem**

*Standing on the Shoulders*

Joyce Rouse/Arr. Hitomi Sutton

**Message**

*Humble Faith*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

**Response to the Word**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**

† **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, have mercy on us in our times of sin and pride. Pour out your forgiveness, and shower us with the blessings of your guidance and grace. Stand by us in our times of weakness, and strengthen us to move forward in faith. Help us finish this race with gratitude and joy, that others may receive the blessings of all you are doing through us and all you have yet to do.

One: You, who have been brought low, are lifted and brought high in the saving grace of Christ, the mighty love of God. 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

*Rejoice in God's Saints*

UMH 708

1. Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days;  
a world without saints forgets how to praise.  
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,  
their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.
2. Some march with events to turn them God's way;  
some need to withdraw, the better to pray.  
Some carry the gospel through fire and through flood;  
our world is their parish; their purpose is God.
3. Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,  
who bear someone's cross or shoulder their own.  
They shame our complaining, our comforts, our cares;  
what patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!
4. Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days;  
a world without saints forgets how to praise.  
In loving, in living, they prove it is true:  
the way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.

† Benediction

Postlude

*My Heart Ever Faithful*

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

**Flowers:** flowers are donated by D. Ann Fanestil in memory of Darrell Fanestil's 10-31-1933 birthday  
**Liturgist:** Cyrus Ebrahimi  
**Organist:** Robert Wuertz  
**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford  
**Ushers:** Beau Brandon, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight, Lon Showley, Russell Toppi  
**Tech Team:** AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

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**LJUMC Ministry Team**

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Erin Wyer, NS Executive Director