



**LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST**

Celebration

The Days are Surely Coming

**Sunday, November 16, 2025
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org**

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Pastorale

Domenico Zipoli
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Call to Worship

One: Celebrate and rejoice, all you people of Christ,
Left: For the Lord our God is doing a new thing!
Right: The old order is gone,
All: everything is new!

One: Illness, disease and crying and mourning,
Left: shall be as a distant memory!
Right: Hatred and war shall cease from the earth,
All: For Christ has risen! Death is defeated!

One: Hallelujah! Jesus lives!
All: Hallelujah! Amen.

Congregational Introit

We Are the Body of Christ

TFWS 2227

One heart, one Spirit, one voice to praise you, we are the body of Christ.
One goal, one vision: To see you exalted. We are the body of Christ.
And to this we give our lives to see you glorified.

One heart, one Spirit, one voice to praise you, we are the body of Christ.
One goal, one vision: To see you exalted. We are the body of Christ.

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

Come, Let Us Dream

W & S 3157

1. Come, let us dream God's dream again. Come, one and all, let us ascend the mountaintop where those of old saw God's new day on earth unfold.
2. The lame shall walk, the blind shall see, the doors swing wide, all prisoners free, the lowly raised, the proud brought low. This is God's dream: let justice flow.
3. When hatred ends and war shall cease, so all may dwell in deepest peace, then be assured the time is near when perfect love casts out all fear.
4. But know the cost of claiming sight of God's new day, of wrongs made right, for some have paid the highest price, their lives for us, a sacrifice.

5. Prophets are scorned in their own lands and martyrs slain by righteous hands; though dreamers die, the dream will live, for we have yet our lives to give.

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 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

Isaiah 65:17-25 (NRSVue)

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating,
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy
and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime,
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat,
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labor in vain
or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the Lord.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

Joy in the Morning

Natalie Sleeth
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Message

Celebration

Kimmie 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: O God, we want to be strong, but are often not. We wish we could be unaffected by the world and give all our anxiety away. And yet, we hold onto our worries and fears, as if they could bring us comfort, the way you do. We want to be brave and have the courage to release the trappings of this world, to reach for something that is really real. When the world falls apart around us; when we don't know where to start to heal it; when we turn to things that never satisfy, help us place our trust in you. Keep our hearts from being idle and our souls from giving in to despair, for you are just waiting to bring new life. Amen.

One: Loving God, you meet our fear with comfort, our anger with grace. Just when we have convinced ourselves that you have forgotten us, we find you turning back, and back, and back to us. Meet us with your salvation—a gift beyond what we have dared to ask. Redeem our fears and turn them into joy. Sing through us, O God, that we may have the voice and the peace to sing through you, forever and ever. 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

Marching to Zion

UMH 733

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord,
join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

Refrain

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

2. Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King,
but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad

Refrain

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

3. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields,
before we reach the heavenly fields,
or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets.

Refrain

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

4. Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high.

Refrain

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Arr. Hal H. Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: in loving memory of Ted Todd
Liturgist: Don Rushing
Organist: Robert 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