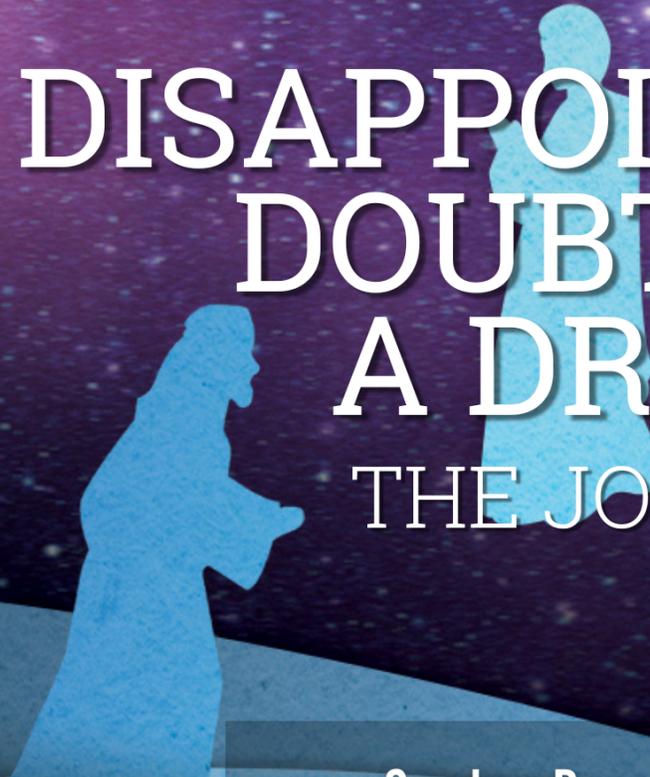




LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST



DISAPPOINTMENT,
DOUBT, AND
A DREAM
THE JOURNEY

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Arr. Hal H. Hopson
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Call to Worship

One: Beloved, we gather to remember who we are, not who the world tells us to be.

All: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

One: We recall the story of God's people, how God has called us to live in peace and righteousness in a world full of conflict and twisted morality.

All: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

One: We recount the story of our journey with God, the moments of God's provision, God's prodding, and God's prophetic guidance.

All: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

One: We gather to repent and return anew to God's story that guides our lives to work for peace and flourishing for all God's creation.

**All: We gather to tell the story of the day that all the earth awaits. Thanks be to God!
Amen.**

Congregational Introit

Emmanuel, Emanuel

UMH 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

Blessed Be the God of Israel

UMH 209

1. Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.
2. Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.
3. On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,

to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

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

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-24 (NRSVue)

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

Noel
Chancel Choir
Joyce Theilacker, Soloist

Redman/Tomlin/Cash
Arr. Heater Sorenson
©2017 Thank You Music

Message

Disappointment, Doubt, and a Dream

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: When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life. Strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

One: Blessed be the Lord our God, who does wondrous things. The most wondrous of all being God's entry into our world in Jesus Christ, "not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Thanksgiving and Holy Communion

Musical Setting A

UMH 17

Online worshipers are invited to select elements including bread and juice (or similar) from their homes to participate in Holy Communion. Please wait until directed before receiving your elements.

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.

1. Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he
of the things that are, that have been and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.
2. O ye heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.
3. Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore. Amen.

Prayer After Communion**WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD****† Closing Hymn***Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

UMH 203

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.
4. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

What Star Is, This, with Beams So Bright

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

Flowers: from Betsy del Pozo in memory of Jose on his birthday
Liturgist: Sal Butera
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Beau Brandon, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight, Russell Toppi
Communion Servers: Lisa Corpron, Ann Gonsalves, Debbie Lynn
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