



WRESTLING WITH
DOUBT
FINDING FAITH

Is Heaven
Real?

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Adagio

Alessandro Marcello/Arr. Hopson
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Call to Worship

One: God wants all people to be saved and to come to know the truth.

All: As in Adam all people die, so in Christ will all be made alive.

One: At the name of Jesus everyone will bow

All: In heaven, and on earth, and under the earth.

One: At the name of Jesus every tongue will confess

All: That Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God and the salvation of all.

Congregational Introit

Change My Heart, O God

TFWS 2152

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

Hymn of Promise

UMH 707

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
2. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
3. In the end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

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, 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.

Prayer Response

I Love You Lord

CCLI Song #25266
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WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

1 Timothy 2:3b-6a (NRSVue)

This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
who gave himself a ransom for all

John 14:1-6 (NRSVue)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Anthem

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Arr. Mark Hayes
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Message

Is Heaven Real?

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Intermezzo

Manuel Ponce
Off Copyright

† **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: God of mystery and wonder, we bring our doubts to you. We confess that all too often, we have allowed doubt to overcome faith. We have turned away when our questions became too hard or too painful. We have preferred easier, smaller imitations of the truth to the life and faith you desire for us. We have sought refuge in certainty. Forgive us, we pray. Lead us to a heartfelt belief that is unafraid of doubt, that welcomes mystery, that trusts in you. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

One: Hear the good news. Doubt is not the enemy of faith. Believe and rejoice. 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, We That Love the Lord

UMH 732

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne.
2. Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King may speak their joys abroad.
3. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets.
4. Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, to fairer worlds on high.

† Benediction

Postlude

God of Grace and God of Glory

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

Flowers: from Carol Shively, in memory of Harold "Shive" Shively and in honor of Carol's birthday
Liturgist: Rod Betts
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Rod Betts, Beau Brandon, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight, Russell Toppi
Tech Team: AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

LJUMC Ministry Team

Pastor Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Pastor Rob Shearer, Director of Children & Youth Ministries
Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb, Office Manager;
Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director; Erin Wyer, NS Executive Director