



WRESTLING WITH  
**DOUBT**  
FINDING FAITH

Why Do the  
Innocent Suffer?

**Sunday, February 1, 2026**  
**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

# WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

**Gathering Music**

*Shenandoah*

Arr. Phillip Keveren  
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**Presenting the Colors**

Scout Troop 506

**Call to Worship**

One: Lord, when we suffer we want relief. We want it to stop.

**All: God's answer is not to remove suffering, but to redeem it.**

One: Lord, when we suffer we want understanding. We want to know why.

**All: God's answer is not to explain suffering, but to grant the strength to bear it.**

One: Lord, when we suffer we want control. We want power over our pain.

**All: God's answer is not control, but presence. God's answer is the cross and the resurrection. Even in suffering God is with us.**

**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**

*Mighty to Save*

W&S 3038

1. Everyone needs compassion, a love that's never failing; let mercy fall on me.  
Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior, the Hope of nations.

Refrain

Savior, he can move the mountains; my God is mighty to save, he is mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation, he rose and conquered the grave; Jesus conquered the grave.

2. So take me as you find me, all my fears and failures; fill my life again.  
I give my life to follow everything I believe in. Now I surrender, yes, I surrender.

Refrain

Savior, he can move the mountains; my God is mighty to save, he is mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation, he rose and conquered the grave; Jesus conquered the grave.

### Bridge

Shine your light and let the whole world see we're singing for the glory of the risen King. Jesus!  
Shine your light and let the whole world see we're singing for the glory of the risen King.

### Refrain

Savior, he can move the mountains; my God is mighty to save, he is mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation, he rose and conquered the grave; Jesus conquered the grave.

You're my Savior. You can move the mountains;  
God, you are mighty to save, you are mighty to save.  
Forever, Author of salvation, you rose and conquered the grave;  
yes, you conquered the grave. You are mighty to save.

## Celebration of Scouting Ministry

### 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

Genesis 1:27-28 (CEB)

God created humanity in God's own image,  
in the divine image God created them,  
male and female God created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground."

### Scriptural Response

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

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

### Anthem

*Be Still and Know That I Am God*

Mary McDonald  
©2010 Beckenhorst Press

### Message

*Why Do the Innocent Suffer?*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

*Amazing Grace*  
Daisy Odelberg, Flute

### † 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.**

### 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.

**Communion Song**

*Day By Day*

CCLI Song # 104479  
CCLI License # 1590922

1. Day by day and with each passing moment  
Strength I find to meet my trials here  
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment  
I've no cause for worry or for fear

He whose heart is kind beyond all measure  
Gives unto each day what He deems best  
Lovingly its part of pain and pleasure  
Mingling toil with peace and rest

2. Ev'ry day the Lord Himself is near me  
With a special mercy for each hour  
All my cares He fain would bear and cheer me  
He whose name is Counselor and Pow'r

The protection of His child and treasure  
Is a charge that on Himself He laid  
As your days your strength shall be in measure  
This the pledge to me He made

3. Help me then in ev'ry tribulation  
So to trust Your promises O Lord  
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation  
Offered me within Your holy Word

Help me Lord when toil and trouble meeting  
E'er to take as from a Father's hand  
One by one the days the moments fleeting  
Till I reach the Promised Land

**Prayer After Communion**

## WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† **Closing Hymn**

*In Christ Alone*

W&S 3105

1. In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song.  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones he came to save.  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied;  
for every sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am his and he is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme or plan can ever pluck me from his hand.  
'Til he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

**Retiring the Colors**

Scout Troop 506

† **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Sound the Trumpet*

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

**Flowers:** in celebration of the history and relationship LJUMC has enjoyed with Scouts  
**Organist:** Robert Wuertz  
**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford  
**Communion Servers:** Sal and Deborah Butera  
**Tech Team:** AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

**Troop 506B:** Antoine Barrera-Farris, Sebastian Castro, Ian Combs, Emilio De Soto, Massimo De Soto, Santino De Soto, Brandon Landrum, Leo McNeal, Lakan Molina,  
Troopmaster: Brian Catanzaro

**Troop 506G:** Emmy Castro, Ophie Chen, Kate King, Daisy Odelberg, Phoebe Yasuhara  
Troopmaster: Amy Cheng

**506 Committee Chair:** Rebecca Cosford

**506 Church Liaison:** Nick Cosford

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### **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