



WRESTLING WITH
DOUBT
FINDING FAITH

Does Prayer
Change Anything?

Sunday, February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Call to Worship

One: Jesus says, knock and the door will be opened. Seek and you shall find.

All: God, we seek you. We trust in your wisdom and grace.

One: Jesus says, if you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.

All: God, we ask boldly, but we trust in your wisdom and grace.

One: Jesus says, not my will, God, but your will be done.

All: God, we pray trusting in your wisdom and grace.

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

UMH 140

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

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.*

Prayer Hymn

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

TFWS

2158

1. I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Refrain

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2. Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

Refrain

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

3. When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.

Refrain

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

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

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Psalm 22:2 (NRSVue)

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night but find no rest.

John 15:7 (CEB)

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.

Luke 22:42 (CEB)

He said, "Father, if it's your will, take this cup of suffering away from me. However, not my will but your will must be done."

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

Lord, Listen to Your Children

Ken Medema/Arr. Schrader
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Message

Does Prayer Change Anything?

Rev. Carol Millsbaugh

Sermon Hymn

Seek Ye First

UMH 405

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!
2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

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: 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

Here I Am, Lord

UMH 593

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Chaconne

Louis Couperin/Arr. Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: Happy Birthday and Happy Valentine's Day to Cindy Rushing
Liturgist: Cyrus Ebrahimi
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

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 Wyr, NS Executive Director