



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Sowing,
Seeking,
Finding

THE **LAST SUPPER**

Sunday, February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Peaceful Piano #11

Mark Hayes

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Call to Worship

One: Come, let us worship God!

All: Come, let us worship our Creator!

One: God is the great Sower, scattering seeds of life and abundance across the earth.

All: We are the soil the Sower plants, created to nurture and sustain the seeds of God's life-giving love.

One: God is the great Gardener, tilling and cultivating our soil with love and grace.

All: We notice the rocks and thorns in our soil and call on the Gardener's love and grace to transform us into good soil.

One: God is the great Life-giver, sowing seeds and tending the soil to produce the fruit of abundant life.

All: May we nurture and grow God's new reality, bearing the fruit of flourishing and abundance for all God's creation. Amen.

Congregational Introit

Seek Ye First

UMH 405

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

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

I Sought the Lord

UMH 341

1. I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew
he moved my soul to seek him, seeking me.
It was not I that found, O Savior true;
No, I was found of thee.
2. Thou dost reach forth thy hand and mine enfold;
I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea.
'Twas not so much that I on thee took hold,
As thou, dear Lord, on me.

3. I find, I walk, I love, but oh,
the whole of love is but my answer, Lord to thee!
For thou wert long beforehand with my soul;
Always, thou lovedst 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.*

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

Come Into My Heart

TFWS 2160

WE HEAR THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Luke 8:5-15 (CEB)

“A farmer went out to scatter his seed. As he was scattering it, some fell on the path where it was crushed, and the birds in the sky came and ate it. Other seed fell on rock. As it grew, it dried up because it had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorns grew with the plants and choked them. Still other seed landed on good soil. When it grew, it produced one hundred times more grain than was scattered.” As he said this, he called out, “Everyone who has ears should pay attention.”

His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, “You have been given the mysteries of God’s kingdom, but these mysteries come to everyone else in parables so that *when they see, they can’t see, and when they hear, they can’t understand.*”

“The parable means this: The seed is God’s word. The seed on the path are those who hear, but then the devil comes and steals the word from their hearts so that they won’t believe and be saved. The seed on the rock are those who receive the word joyfully when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while but fall away when they are tempted. As for the seed that fell among thorny plants,

these are the ones who, as they go about their lives, are choked by the concerns, riches, and pleasures of life, and their fruit never matures. The seed that fell on good soil are those who hear the word and commit themselves to it with a good and upright heart. Through their resolve, they bear fruit.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

O Jesu, I Have Promised

John Carter
©1981 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Message

Sowing, Seeking, Finding

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: **Loving God, Sower and Reaper of love, we admit to you that we are like stony fields, capable of growing goodness and sharing it around, but also we allow goodness to wither and weeds to flourish. Your mercy has taken root in us, but we do not share enough of it with others, your justice has grown on us, but we have inadequately implemented it, your truth has showered on us, but we have let it run to waste, your love has blossomed among us, but we have been slow to set fruit**

Most loving God, please open the furrows of our lives to receive again the seeds of your Gospel. Rain your mercy upon us, shine your warmth and light into every dark place, and bring forth in us not the harvest we deserve but the harvest that in your glorious love you have destined for us. Through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen!

One: Listen, to this Word: “Where sin abounds, love much more abounds.” Receive from this abundance and give thanks. You, my siblings, are among the richest people in the world. You have the wealth of Christ with you always, even to the end of time. 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**

Father, We Have Heard You Calling

W & S 3150

1. Father, we have heard you calling to your church in every age;
for a sign of true devotion for a sacrifice of praise.
In this place where you have brought us, may we always seek to be
one in love and one in worship—children of eternity.
2. Jesus Christ, our faith’s perfecter, priest and advocate above.
We would reach our broken nation with the truth of your great love.
So transform our feeble witness, may we always live to be
one in love and one in worship—children of eternity.
3. Holy Spirit, fire of heaven, fall upon us here today.
Bring release, bring tears, bring passion, then transform your church, we pray.
As you pour your grace upon us, may we always thirst to be
one in love and one in worship—children of eternity.
4. Praise we bring to God the Father, praise we bring to God the Son,
Praise to God the Holy Spirit, praise to you, the three in one.
Trinity of love inspire us, may we always strive to be
one in love and one in worship—children of eternity.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Prelude in G Minor

J.S. Bach/Edited Hal Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: from Margie Herrick in loving memory of her husband, Bob, on his birthday

Liturgist: Deborah Butera

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