



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Open
Invitation

THE **LAST SUPPER**

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Peaceful Piano #8

Mark Hayes

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Call to Worship

One: Come! Now is the time to worship!

All: We come to worship God who invites us.

One: Jesus tells a story about ordinary people who received an invitation to a great banquet, and who had other things to do: a field to inspect, oxen to manage, a new marriage to tend. They were not hostile. They were just busy.

All: God persistently invites us—even in distraction.

One: Jesus tells a story of a great banquet where the guests dismissed the invitation, so the host invited the most marginalized people off the city streets, and welcomed all who received the invitation in earnest.

All: God persistently invites us—even when we don't expect it.

One: Too often we turn from God's ways, insisting that we know what is best instead of trusting God's provision, love, and guidance.

All: When we turn away and our love fails, God continues to offer us opportunities to join in the celebration of God's abundant love and life.

One: Come! Now is the time to worship!

All: We come to worship God who always keeps inviting.

Congregational Introit

O Lord, Your Tenderness

TFWS 2143

O Lord, your tenderness, melting all my bitterness;

O Lord, I receive your love.

O Lord, your loveliness, changing my unworthiness;

O Lord, I receive your Love.

O Lord, I receive your love.

O Lord, I receive your love.

Welcome – (*Welcome, attendance cards & prayer requests, flowers in praise of God!*)

† Opening Hymn

Lord, Speak to Me

UMH 463

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
in living echoes of thy tone;
as thou hast sought, so let me seek
thine erring children lost and lone.

2. O strengthen me, that while I stand
firm on the rock, and strong in thee,
I may stretch out a loving hand
to wrestlers with the troubled sea.
3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious things thou dost impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.
4. O fill me with thy fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'er flow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
thy love to tell, thy praise to show.
5. O use me, Lord, use even me,
just as thou wilt, and when, and where,
until thy blessed face I see,
thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

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

WE HEAR THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Luke 14:16-24 (CEB)

Jesus replied, "A certain man hosted a large dinner and invited many people. When it was time for the dinner to begin, he sent his servant to tell the invited guests, 'Come! The dinner is now ready.' One by one, they all began to make excuses. The first one told him, 'I bought a farm and must go and see it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I bought five teams of oxen, and I'm going to check on them. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' When he returned, the servant reported these excuses to his master. The master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go quickly to the city's streets, the busy ones and the side streets, and bring the poor, crippled, blind, and lame.' The servant said, 'Master, your instructions have been followed and there is still room.' The master said to the servant, 'Go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

Speak to Me, Lord

John Ness Beck
©1978 Beckenhorst Press

Message

Open Invitation

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: God of open invitation, we come to this table with our excuses already made. We have been busy with good things—our work, our plans, our routines—and we have allowed them to crowd out your call. We have accepted the gifts of your abundance and stayed home from your feast.

We have not always extended the invitation to others, preferring familiar faces, and being slow to go into the streets. We have narrowed the table that you keep widening. Forgive us. Open our hearts once again to your call. Send us out to those we have overlooked. And gather us in around the table you have prepared. Through Christ, who is both the host and the meal. Amen.

One: Hear this good news: the host has not stopped sending messengers. There is still room at the table! God's love reaches further than our excuses and wider than our comfort. 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

Gather Us In

TFWS 2236

1. Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in—the lost and forsaken,
gather us in—the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young—our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old—who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in—the rich and the haughty,
gather us in—the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light-years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in—all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer After Communion

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† **Closing Hymn**

We Are God's People

TFWS 2220

1. We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
born of the Spirit, established by the Word.
Our corner stone is Christ alone, and strong in Christ we stand;
O let us live transparently and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
for we have known it the love of God outpoured.
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given;
O let us share each joy and care and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.
3. We are the body of which the Lord is Head,
called to obey Christ, now risen from the dead.
God wills us be a family diverse, yet truly one;
O let us give our gifts to God and so shall God's work on earth be done.
4. We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace.
We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire;
yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light and to inspire.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Fugue and Harmonization on "St. Anne"

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

Flowers: in praise of God!
Liturgist: Ann Davis
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Dave Grundies, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight, Lon Showley
Communion Servers: Paul, Colin & Evan Crowder
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