



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Feasting
with the
Found

THE **LAST SUPPER**

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Call to Worship

Adapted from a poem by Roddy Hamilton

One: Let this be the welcoming place — the place of return.

All: We gather here, built by a love that bends toward all who come home.

One: God has been waiting like a candle in the window, ever lighting the way back, never letting go of the hope that each child will return home.

All: We return to a love that has been searching for us all along.

One: Jesus tells stories of a shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine, a woman who tears up her house for one coin, a father who runs down the road—because what is lost must be found.

All: We are the lost who have been found. We are the ones God runs toward.

One: When the lost come home, the only appropriate response is to kill the fatted calf, feast and celebrate, and prepare the party.

All: We come to worship the God whose joy at finding us has no end. Let us feast and celebrate!

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

† Opening Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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

Into My Heart

TFWS 2160

WE HEAR THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Luke 15:11-32 (CEB)

Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

"When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against

heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.”’ So he got up and went to his father.

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

Order My Steps

Burleigh/Schrader

©2000 Burleigh Inspirations Music

Message

Feasting with the Found

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

Arr. Lloyd Larson

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† **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: Searching God, we recognize in ourselves both the prodigal's wandering and the older brother's resentment. We have taken your gifts and gone our own way. And when you welcomed others home with celebration, we have stood outside the party, grumbling about who deserves a place at your table.

We admit that we measure grace by our own ledger. We count our years of service, weigh the sins of others, and decide who belongs at the feast. Forgive us. Teach us to trust your reckless, wasteful love. Draw us in from the edges and seat us at the table you have prepared. Through Christ, who runs to meet us on the road. Amen.

One: Hear this good news: the father is already running down the road. Before we finish our confessions, the robe is brought out, the ring is placed, and the party has begun. 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

Lord of All Hopefulness

TFWS 2197

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Be of Good Courage "La Vaillance"

G. P. Telemann/Arr. Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: in recognition of Susan Russell's ministry through the Fireside Library
Liturgist: Lisa Corpron
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Beau Brandon, Steve Gray, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight
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