



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Crumbs
from the
Table

THE **LAST SUPPER**

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Call to Worship

One: Come and worship God, whose love reaches beyond every gate and wall.

All: We come to worship God, whose justice is wide and whose mercy is deep.

One: Jesus tells a story of a rich man who feasted in luxury every day, and a poor man who lay at his gate, longing for crumbs from the table.

All: God invites us to see those who lie at our own gates and to open our hands in welcome.

One: God calls us to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and lift up those we would rather ignore.

All: We come to worship a God whose love makes room for everyone at the table.

One: Come! Let us worship together and let this worship open our eyes and our hearts.

All: We come to worship. We come to see. We come to be changed.

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

Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word

UMH 596

1. Blessed Jesus, at thy word we are gathered all to hear thee;
let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear thee,
by thy teachings sweet and holy, drawn from earth to love thee solely.
2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till thy spirit breaks our night with the beams of truth unclouded.
Thou alone to God canst win us; thou must work all good within us.
3. Glorious Lord, thyself impart! Light of light, from God proceeding,
open thou our ears and heart; help us by thy spirit's pleading;
hear the cry thy people raises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

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 16:19-31(CEB)

“There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted luxuriously every day. At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. Instead, dogs would come and lick his sores.

“The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. While being tormented in the place of the dead, he looked up and saw Abraham at a distance with Lazarus at his side. He shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I’m suffering in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received good things, whereas Lazarus received terrible things. Now Lazarus is being comforted and you are in great pain. Moreover, a great crevasse has been fixed between us and you. Those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot. Neither can anyone cross from there to us.’

“The rich man said, ‘Then I beg you, Father, send Lazarus to my father’s house. I have five brothers. He needs to warn them so that they don’t come to this place of agony.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets. They must listen to them.’ The rich man said, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will change their hearts and lives.’ Abraham said, ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the Prophets, then neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’”

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Anthem

All Shall Be Well

Mark Hayes

Commissioned for LJUMC Chancel Choir
Premiered on April 28, 2024 in La Jolla, CA

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Message

Crumbs from the Table

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Colors of Joy
Dorian Bells

Brenda E. Austin
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† Doxology

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 mercy and justice, we confess that we have grown comfortable in our abundance. We move through our days wrapped in our own concerns, our own routines, our own comforts, and we fail to notice those who lie just outside our gates, longing for what falls from our tables. More often than we care to admit, we simply stop looking. We do not make the connections between what we have and what others lack. Forgive us this willful unawareness. Open our eyes and our hands. Give us the grace to see those we would rather ignore, and to act on what we see. Through Christ, who calls us to a table where no one is left outside. Amen.

One: Hear this good news: the God who sees the poor man at the gate also sees us, and reaches toward us with mercy. We are not condemned by our blindness; we are called to open our eyes. 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

We Utter Our Cry (v1-3, 6)

UMH 439

1. We utter our cry: that peace may prevail, that earth will survive, and faith must not fail. We pray with our life for the world in our care, for people diminished by doubt and despair.
2. We cry from the fright of our daily scene for strength to say “No” to all that is mean: designs bearing chaos, extinction of life, all energy wasted on weapons of death.
3. We lift up our hearts for children unborn; give wisdom, O God, that we may hand on, replenished and tended, this good planet Earth, preserving the future and wonder of birth.
6. Whatever the ill or pressure we face, Lord, hearten and heal, give insight and grace to think and make peace with each heartbeat and breath, choose Christ before Caesar and life before death!

† Benediction

Postlude

Grand Jeu

Jean Adam Guilain/Edited Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: from Marjorie Slankard, in memory of her husband, Alan Bergelson and his March 14th birthday

Liturgist: Pastor Rob

Organist: Robert Wuertz

Pianist: Rebecca Cosford

Ushers: Rod Betts, Peter McCreight, Don Rushing, Lon Showley

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 Wyer, NS Executive Director