



LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

RECKLESS  
LOVE

Expand the Circle

Sunday, April 19, 2026  
Third Sunday of Easter  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

*Serenity*

Mark Dorian  
©2007 Dorian Music

### Call to Worship

One: Beloved, the Savior calls to you. Will you follow?

**All: God, help us leave everything and follow.**

One: Christ's call persists through the clouds of doubt, fear, and worry. Will you follow?

**All: God, help us leave everything and follow.**

One: Jesus calls us to shift our priorities, to leave behind the baggage of prejudice and the grasping for position so we can truly love God and our neighbors well. Will you follow?

**All: God, help us leave everything and follow.**

One: Beloved, receive this good news: you are not alone! Today we answer Christ's call together!

**All: God, help us leave everything and follow your path of Love everywhere we go! Amen.**

### Congregational Introit

*Celebrate Love*

TFWS 2073

Celebrate love, love, love. Celebrate love, love, love.

Celebrate love so amazing. He's creating his wonderful love in you.

We can celebrate his love today. Jesus loves everyone.

We can celebrate new life today. Jesus loves everyone.

### Welcome –

#### † Opening Hymn

*The Summons*

TFWS 2130

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?

- Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in 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**

*I Love You Lord*

TFWS 2068

## **WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

### **Scripture**

Luke 5:1-11, 27-32 (NRSVue)

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if

you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’s knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up, left everything, and followed him.

Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house, and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others reclining at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

### Scriptural Response

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

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

**Anthem**

*Here I Am*

Daniel L. Schutte

Arr. John Leavitt

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**Message**

*Expand the Circle*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

**Response to the Word**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**

*Peaceful Piano #25*

Mark Hayes

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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:** Lord of grace, we have worked all day and night, for many months and years. We yearn for a heavy catch, a full church, an abundant feast. Forgive us God, when we are too tired to cast our nets one more time; when we are too stubborn to do things a little differently. Forgive us when we have drawn the circle too small, and welcomed only those who already belong. Grant us grace to proclaim your word, work for your kingdom, and trust your promises. Amen.

One: Do not be afraid! Christ has called. Christ has redeemed us. Christ will save us all. 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

*Forth in Thy Name, O Lord*

UMH 438

1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue;  
thee, only thee, resolved to know in all I think or speak or do.
2. The task thy wisdom hath assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill;  
in all my works thy presence find, and prove thy good and perfect will.
3. Thee may I set at my right hand, whose eyes mine inmost substance see,  
and labor on at thy command, and offer all my works to thee.
4. For thee delightfully employ whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given;  
And run my course with even joy, and closely walk with thee to heaven.

### † Benediction

#### Postlude

*Awake the Trumpet's Lofty Sound*

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

**Flowers:** in honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of Ernie & Mimi Mortensen  
**Liturgist:** Rod Betts  
**Organist:** Robert Wuertz  
**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford  
**Ushers:** Rod Betts, Steve Gray, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight  
**Tech Team:** AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

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**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