



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

RECKLESS
LOVE

Openhearted Love

Sunday, May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

O Perfect Love

Arr. Hal H. Hopson
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Call to Worship

One: Come, let us worship God!

All: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

One: Come, let us worship our Shepherd!

All: We are the sheep of God's pasture, and we follow where God leads us.

One: Come, let us open our hearts!

All: We receive God's love poured into our hearts through the Spirit.

One: Come, let us worship God, the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us worship God, whose mercy guides and sustains us on the path of new life!

Congregational Introit

Celebrate Love

TFWS 2073
Handt Hanson
©1991 Changing Church Forum

Refrain

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

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

1. We can celebrate his love today. Jesus loves everyone.
We can celebrate new life today. Jesus loves everyone.

Refrain

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

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

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

Open the Eyes of My Heart

W & S 3008
Paul Baloche (CCLI #2298355)

Chorus

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You

Verse

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

Chorus

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You

Verse

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

Bridge (x3)

Holy holy holy; Holy holy holy; Holy holy holy;
I want to see You

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 OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 (NRSVue)

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

John 4:4-30, 40 (NRSVue)

But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

Put a Little Love in Your Heart

Holiday/Myer
Arr. Cristi Cary Miller
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Message

Openhearted Love

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Last week's message was titled, *Lavish Love*. As a reminder to love lavishly, write the letter **L** on a post-it note and add it next to your **B** and **E** from the first two weeks. Each week of this series we'll add a letter to help us live out these commandments.

This week, pray for God to show you one place in your life where your heart has closed. It might be toward a person, a group, a neighborhood, an idea. Pay attention to what comes to mind and ask God to help you understand why. Then commit to one intentional change toward openness: a conversation you've been avoiding, a question you've been unwilling to ask, a place you don't usually go. Write down (or type in a note on your phone) what you notice, what you feel. At the end of the week, share what happened with a trusted spiritual partner or family member, and ask them to pray for you as you continue.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

My Sweet Lord

George Harrison

Jayson Coleman, Lisa Corpron, Joyce Theilacker ©1970 Harrisongs Limited

† 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, we admit that we are prone to try to hide our sins; to keep our mouths shut and hope we are not found out. But there is no place to hide from you. Our silence only makes us sick in body and spirit. But you delight in forgiving us and in covering our sin. You are glad when we confess our failings and our needs. Hide us, O God, from trouble; teach us the way we should go. Deliver us from our own stubbornness, and draw us near, we pray. Amen.

One: Hear the good news: if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away; everything has become new. All this is from God, who reconciled us through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 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

The Power of Your Love

Geoff Bullock
CCLI #917491

Prayer After Communion

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† Closing Hymn

More Love More Power

Jude Del Hierro
CCLI License #60661

Verse

More love more power More of You in my life
More love more power More of You in my life

Chorus 1

And I will worship You With all of my heart
And I will worship You With all of my mind
And I will worship You With all of my strength
For You are my Lord

Verse

More love more power More of You in my life
More love more power More of You in my life

Chorus 1

And I will worship You With all of my heart
And I will worship You With all of my mind
And I will worship You With all of my strength
For You are my Lord

Verse

More love more power More of You in my life
More love more power More of You in my life

Chorus 2

And I will seek Your face With all of my heart
And I will seek Your face With all of my mind
And I will seek Your face With all of my strength
For You are my Lord For You Are My Lord

† **Benediction**

Postlude

My Heart Ever Faithful

J.S. Bach
©1999 Hal Leonard Corp.

Flowers: in memory of Wendy Nelson
Liturgist: Don Rushing
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Guitar: Mike Gray
Ushers: Gail Chatfield, Ann Davis, Ann Gonsalves, Leigh Kramer, Janet Lind, Cindy Rushing, Jean Thomas, Betsy Witt
Communion Servers: Ann Davis, Cyrus Ebrahimi, Randy Seward
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