



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

RECKLESS
LOVE

**Value the
Vulnerable**

Sunday, May 10, 2026
Sixth Sunday of Easter
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

There's a Balm in Gilead

Mark Hayes

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Call to Worship

One: All who thirst, refresh yourselves in the waters of the living God.

All: As a deer longs for flowing streams, our souls long for God.

One: All who weep, comfort yourselves in the safety of the living God.

All: As a deer longs for flowing streams, our souls long for Christ.

One: All who feel lost and forgotten, find home and family in the house of the living God.

All: As a deer longs for flowing streams, our souls long for the Spirit.

One: Come! Revive yourselves in the waters of the living God.

Congregational Introit

Celebrate Love

TFWS 2073

Handt Hanson

©1991 Changing Church Forum

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

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (v1-3, 5, 7)

UMH 57

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
5. He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven;
Anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.

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
Laurie Klein
©1978 House of Mercy Music

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Mark 5:1-20 (NRSVue)

They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes. And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. He lived among the tombs, and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain, for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces, and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him, and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region. Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding, and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, stampeded down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. They came to Jesus and saw the man possessed by demons sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion, and they became frightened. Those who had seen what had happened to the man possessed by demons and to the swine reported it. Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. But Jesus refused and said to him, "Go home to your own people, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and what mercy he has shown you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

TFWS 21553
Spiritual/ Arr. Wendell Whalum
© Estate of Wendell Whalon

Message

Value the Vulnerable

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

A Simple Prayer
Dorian Bells

Linda R. Lamb
© 2013 Choristers Guild

† 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: Liberating God, in the midst of our brokenness, we long to have you tend our needs, yet we resist your healing touch; in the midst of our confusion and doubt, we yearn to lay down our worry and stress, yet we cling to old injuries and righteous anger at perceived wrongs. Free us from the chains that bind us, and help us embrace the true freedom you offer. Heal us and nourish us, O God, that we might see as Jesus sees, and love as Jesus loves. Amen.

One: Even when we are full of despair, even when we want nothing more than to give up, God sends angels to tend us and restore us to life. Rejoice in the assurance that the one who calls us is faithful. 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

Cuando El Pobre (When the Poor Ones)

UMH 434

1. When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,

Refrain

then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

2. When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times seems all around us,

Refrain

then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

3. When our joy fills our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple things is better,

Refrain

then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor,

Refrain

then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

The Story of Love

Billy Hill

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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: flowers from Diana Prat in loving memory of Lynn Keck, missed beyond words
Liturgist: Lon Showley
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Cindy Rushing, Gail Chatfield, Ann Davis, Ann Gonsalves,
Janet Lind, Leigh Kramer, Jean Thomas
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