



Wesleyan
Vile-tality



The Prisoner's
Friends

Sunday, May 31, 2026

First Sunday after Pentecost

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Dueto No. 1 (Rondo, Allegro)
Sue Boles and Callie Boles

W.A. Mozart
Public Domain

Call to Worship

One: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, anointing us to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, to let the oppressed go free.

All: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

One: We come as Jesus came to the synagogue in Nazareth: to hear the scriptures read aloud, to receive them in our hearts, and to go where God calls us.

All: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

One: The first Methodists earned their name proclaiming release to the captives, standing with a man who had been condemned. They went where respectable people of faith would never go. They answered a call that respectable religion would rather ignore.

All: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

One: Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them. People of God, will we follow where the Spirit leads, even when fear and respectability suggest we look the other way?

All: We gather to worship, as is our custom. And we come ready to go where we are called, even when we would rather stay in our comfort zones, even when the world calls it vile. Amen.

Congregational Introit

What Does the Lord Require of You

Jim Strathdee
CCLI License # 456859

What does the Lord require of you?
What does the Lord require of you?
Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.

To seek justice and love kindness
and walk humbly with your God.
To seek justice and love kindness
and walk humbly with your God.

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

The Voice of God Is Calling

UMH 436

1. The voice of God is calling its summons in our day;
Isaiah heard in Zion, and we now hear God say:
"Whom shall I send to succor my people in their need?
Whom shall I send to loosen the bonds of shame and greed?"
2. "I hear my people crying in slum and mine and mill;
no field or mart is silent, no city street is still.
I see my people falling in darkness and despair.
Whom shall I send to shatter the fetters which they bear?"
3. We heed, O Lord, your summons, and answer: Here are we!
Send us upon your errand, let us your servants be.
Our strength is dust and ashes, our years a passing hour;
but you can use our weakness to magnify your power.
4. From ease and plenty save us; from pride of place absolve;
purge us of low desire; lift us to high resolve;
take us, and make us holy; teach us your will and way.
Speak, and behold! we answer; command, and we obey!

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

Peace of Our Praying

W&S 3022

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Luke 4:16-21 (CEB)

Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the prisoners
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to liberate the oppressed,
and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."

Hebrews 13:1-8 (NRSVue)

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Anthem

Whatever You Do

W&S 3128

Message

The Prisoner's Friends

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Air, Jigg

Anonymous 18th Century Composers
Public Domain

† 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 of the prisoner and the outcast, we confess that we have loved your justice from a safe distance. We have heard you proclaim release to the captives but have never seen the inside of a jail. We have chosen comfort over solidarity, reputation over presence, and we have called it wisdom. You charge us to remember those in prison as though we were in prison with them, and we have chosen to look the other way. Forgive us. Give us the courage of those first Methodists who walked into the jail, who stood beside the condemned, who earned a name and reputation by refusing to look away. Make us people willing to go where you call us, even to the poor and the captives. Amen.

One: Hear the good news: God has never looked the other way. God forgives us and loves us, even when we forget that we are meant to be good news for the world. 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 Are Called

TFWS 2172

1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God!

Refrain

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

2. Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

Refrain

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love!

Refrain

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Great Is the Lord
Sue Boles and Callie Boles

Michael W. and Deborah Smith
Setting by Peggy Bettcher
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

- Flowers:** from the Showley family in honor of Lon & Carolyn's wedding anniversary
Liturgist: Lisa Corpron
Liturgist: Sal Butera
Organist: Bob Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Cindy Rushing, Gail Chatfield, Ann Davis, Ann Gonsalves, Janet Lind,
Leigh Kramer, Jean Thomas, Betsy Witt
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