



Wesleyan Vile-tality



Open Fields

Sunday, June 7, 2026

Second Sunday after Pentecost

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

Melody Bober
©2011 Alfred Music

Call to Worship

One: Like Abram and Sarai, we are called to leave the familiar and go where God leads, trusting that God's promises are true.

All: Whether we are certain or full of doubts, God blesses us that we may be a blessing.

One: God calls us out into the world to journey by faith, believing that God's blessings are greater than anything we can imagine.

All: Whether the path is straight or winding, God blesses us that we may be a blessing.

One: God gathers us with companions for the road, the ones who ask how it is with our souls and who follow God's call even when it makes no sense to the world around us.

All: Whether we journey with friends or feel all alone, God blesses us that we may be a blessing.

One: We are God's people, blessed to be a blessing in the open fields and crowded streets, wherever people are hungry for good news.

All: God, form us today as a people who will not stay behind these walls, that your blessing might flow through us and into the world, drawing all people into your promise of abundant life and flourishing. 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

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

UMH 584

1. Lord, you give the great commission: “Heal the sick and preach the word.”
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity.

Refrain

With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

2. Lord, you call us to your service: “In my name baptize and teach.”
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us, closer in community.

Refrain

With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

3. Lord, you make the common holy: “This my body, this my blood.”
Let us all, for earth’s true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us share your children’s liberty.

Refrain

With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

4. Lord, you show us love’s true measure: “Father, what they do, forgive.”
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society.

Refrain

With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

5. Lord, you bless with words assuring: “I am with you to the end.”
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity.

Refrain

With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Blessing for Young Hearts

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Genesis 12:1-9 (CEB)

The Lord said to Abram, “Leave your land, your family, and your father’s household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;
all the families of the earth
will be blessed because of you.”

Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “I give this land to your descendants,” so Abram built an altar there to the Lord who appeared to him. From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and worshipped in the Lord’s name. Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

Matthew 9:9-13 (NRSVue)

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

I Come with Joy, a Child of God
Chancel Choir, Sue Boles, Flute

Wren/Marcus
©1997 Hope Publishing Co.

Message

Open Fields

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

The Old Rugged Cross

Bill Wolaver
©2007 Word Music

† 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 open table, you make room for every living soul, and still we try to decide who belongs. We have kept the best places for the respectable and the well-connected, and forgotten those you have already welcomed: the women you called to lead, the laborers you called to preach, the poor you called your own. We have made our table small and called it good order. Forgive us. Give us the courage to set a place for those the world overlooks, and welcome them as you have welcomed us. Amen.

One: Hear the good news: God has made room for you. And through you, God makes room for the people the world overlooks. Your place was ready before you ever thought to ask, and it can never be taken away. 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

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

UMH 614

Prayer After Communion

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† **Closing Hymn**

Would I Have Answered When You Called

TFWS 2137

1. Would I have answered when you called, “Come, follow, follow me!”?
Would I at once have left behind both work and family?
Or would the old, familiar round have held me by its claim
and kept the spark within my heart from bursting into flame?
2. Would I have followed where you led through ancient Galilee,
on roads unknown, by ways untried, beyond security?
Or would I soon have hurried back where home and comfort drew,
where truth you taught would not disturb the ordered world I knew?
3. Would I have matched my step with yours when crowds cried, Crucify!”
when on a rocky hill I saw a cross against the sky?
Or would I too have slipped away and left you there alone,
a dying king with crown of thorns upon a terrible throne?
4. O Christ, I cannot search my heart through all its tangled ways,
nor can I with a certain mind my steadfastness appraise.
I only pray that when you call, “Come, follow, follow me!”
you’ll give me strength beyond my own to follow faithfully.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Chaconne

Louis Couperin/Arr. Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *The Abingdon Worship Annual* and *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)*

Flowers: from Marjorie Slankard in memory of her parents, Jean & Jan Slankard, and Alan Bergelson on what would have been their 35th wedding anniversary on June 8th

Liturgist: Deborah Butera

Organist: Robert Wuertz

Pianist: Rebecca Cosford

Ushers: Beau Brandon, Peter McCreight, Don Rushing, Lon Showley, Russell Toppi

Communion Servers: Paul, Colin & Evan Crowder

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