



# Wesleyan Vile-tality



# How Is It with Your Soul?

Sunday, June 21, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

# WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

*Sonata No. 2 in D Major, Minuetto*

J.S. Bach

## Call to Worship

One: People of God, how is it with your soul?

**All: We are not alone! We are children of God!**

One: Christ has come in love and truth, teaching us to live in the light even when we are mocked for it. How is it with your soul?

**All: We are not alone! We are children of God!**

One: The Spirit of truth reveals what is hidden and offers healing through honest confession. How is it with your soul?

**All: We are not alone! We are children of God!**

One: What you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. People of God, how is it with your soul?

**All: We are not alone! We are children of God! 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

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

UMH 126

1. Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled: To God all praise and glory.
2. The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing, an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.

As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory.

3. Thus, all my toilsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises,  
that earth may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part:  
To God all praise and glory.
4. Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory;  
let all who own his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story!  
Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:  
To God all praise and glory.

### **Blessing for Young Hearts**

### **Prayers of the People**

*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**

Jeremiah 20:7-13 (NRSVue)

O Lord, you have enticed me,  
and I was enticed;  
you have overpowered me,  
and you have prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all day long;  
everyone mocks me.  
For whenever I speak, I must cry out;

I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"  
For the word of the Lord has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.  
If I say, "I will not mention him  
or speak any more in his name,"  
then within me there is something like a burning fire  
shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.  
For I hear many whispering:  
"Terror is all around!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
All my close friends  
are watching for me to stumble.  
"Perhaps he can be enticed,  
and we can prevail against him  
and take our revenge on him."  
But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.  
They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.  
O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.  
Sing to the Lord;  
praise the Lord!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

Matthew 10:24-39 (CEB)

"Disciples aren't greater than their teacher, and slaves aren't greater than their master. It's enough for disciples to be like their teacher and slaves like their master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, it's certain that they will call the members of his household by even worse names.

"Therefore, don't be afraid of those people because nothing is hidden that won't be revealed, and nothing secret that won't be brought out into the open. What I say to you in the darkness, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, announce from the rooftops. Don't be afraid of those who kill the body but can't kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell.

Aren't two sparrows sold for a small coin? But not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father knowing about it already. Even the hairs of your head are all counted. Don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

"Therefore, everyone who acknowledges me before people, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. But everyone who denies me before people, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

"Don't think that I've come to bring peace to the earth. I haven't come to bring peace but a sword. I've come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. People's enemies are members of their own households.

"Those who love father or mother more than me aren't worthy of me. Those who love son or daughter more than me aren't worthy of me. Those who don't pick up their crosses and follow me aren't worthy of me. Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them.

## Scriptural Response

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

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

**Anthem**

*Here I Am, Lord*

Daniel Schutte/Arr. Leavitt  
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**Message**

*How Is It with Your Soul?*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

**Offertory**

*Passacaglia*

G.F. Handel/Arr. Johan Halvorsen

† **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 justice and mercy, we know that we have fallen silent when we should have spoken up. We have ignored the cries of the innocent and feared the judgment of the crowd more than we have trusted you. Forgive us, God, for not seeing our own faults, and for not holding ourselves responsible for our silence and inaction. Restore us, God, to the ways Jesus taught us, to speak the truth in love and to follow you without fear. Call us into the paths of courage and love, knowing your mercy extends to all of us, your grace is a gift, and there is nothing we can do to deserve or earn it. Guide us into living into your forgiveness, peace, and reconciliation, in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

One: The early Methodists gathered in small groups and asked one another, "How is it with your soul?" before confessing, just as we have done together this day. God has opened our ears and our hearts to know God's love and forgiveness. There is nothing we need to do other than love God and love one another, for all things come from God's love. You have been forgiven and restored. 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

*How Firm a Foundation*

UMH 529

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design

thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5. “The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

† **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Concerto No. 2 in G Major*

J.S. Bach/arr. Hopson  
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**Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.**

**Flowers:** in celebration of Peter & Sandy McCreight’s 61st wedding anniversary June 25th  
**Liturgist:** Ann Davis  
**Organist:** Bob Wuertz  
**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford  
**Ushers:** Beau Brandon, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight, Lon Showley  
**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