

A photograph of a ceramic chalice and a loaf of bread. The chalice is on the left, featuring a blue and white patterned rim and a black cross on its base. The bread is on the right, resting on a wooden board. The background is a warm, brownish-gold color.

**LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST**

This Holy Mystery

Sunday, July 5, 2026
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

A Summer Day

Mark Dorian

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Call to Worship

One: On the road to Emmaus, two travelers walked in their grief, and the risen Christ drew near and went with them.

All: Stay with us, Lord, for the day is nearly over.

One: They did not know him, and still their hearts burned within them as he opened the scriptures along the way.

All: Stay with us, Lord, and open the scriptures to us.

One: At the table he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and their eyes were opened, and they knew him.

All: Stay with us, Lord. Open our eyes, and make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread. We come to meet the risen Christ at this table. Amen.

Congregational Introit -

Surely the Presence of the Lord

UMH 328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

TFWS 2191

1. Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave,
Who bid the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.
2. O Savior, whose almighty word the wind and waves submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid its rage did sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.
3. O Holy Spirit, who did brood upon the chaos wild and rude
and bid its angry, tumult cease, and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.
4. O Trinity of love and power, all travelers guard in danger's hour;

from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe'er they go;
thus evermore shall rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

Blessing for Young Hearts

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Luke 24:13-35 (CEB)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Anthem

Song for the Unsung Hero

Joseph Martin
©002 Malcolm Music

My county, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing;
land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride,
from every mountainside let freedom ring!

Message

This Holy Mystery

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Autumn (The Four Seasons)

Antonio Vivaldi
©1999 Hal Leonard 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: Gracious God, on the journey of faith we are sometimes slow of heart, and we confess the ways we have failed to recognize you. We have walked with our eyes on the ground, telling over our disappointments. We have come to this table out of habit and missed the mystery set before us. We have welcomed only some, and in doing so we have made the table small. We have heard the good news and kept it to ourselves. We have looked for you in the spectacular and overlooked you in the bread, the cup, and the neighbor

beside us. Forgive us, we pray. Open our eyes, that we, your beloved, may know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread and make him known to the world. Amen.

One: Hear the good news: the risen Christ still draws near to us on the road, still opens the scriptures, and still makes himself known in the breaking of the bread. The same love that walked to Emmaus meets us at this table and stays with us. 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 *As We Gather at Your Table* TFWS 2268

1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.
2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Prayer After Communion

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† Closing Hymn

You Feed Us, Gentle Savior

W&S 3169

1. You feed us, gentle Savior, the bread that makes us whole,
the wine of your compassion poured out into our soul.
The food of your own presence, your Spirit, strong, within,
the grace that heals us deeply and overcomes our sin.
2. You bind us, gentle Savior, and weave us into one,
one flesh and blood made holy, the Body of your Son.
We gather here in hunger, one hunger, all the same;
and with one grace you bless us together in his name.
3. You call us, gentle Savior, and send us in your name.
You teach and heal and show us how we can do the same.
So, strengthened by your Spirit and nourished by your grace,
we go to be your presence in love, in every place.

† Benediction – Pastor Bob

Postlude

Armed Forces Medley

Peggy Duquesnel
©Duquesnel Music Publishing

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

- Flowers:** Tom and Cherie Huse in celebration of the summer season and our 250th birthday of the USA!
- Liturgist:** Deborah Butera
- Organist:** Robert Wuertz
- Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford
- Ushers:** Beau Brandon, Peter McCreight, Don Rushing, Lon Showley
- Communion Servers:** Sal & Deborah Butera, Don Rushing
- 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