



Our Baptismal **VOWS**

Accept

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Marianne Kim

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Call to Worship

One: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

All: We accept the freedom and power that God gives.

One: Isn't this the fast that God chooses: to loose the bonds of injustice, to share bread with the hungry, and shelter to those without homes?

All: We accept the freedom and power God gives.

One: You have received the Spirit of adoption, and by that Spirit we cry, "Abba! Father!"

All: We accept the freedom and power God gives.

One: The whole creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Come, let us worship the God who sets us free and sends us out to set others free.

All: We do, with the help of God, by doing good of every possible sort, as far as possible, to all people. We accept the freedom and power God gives. Thanks be to God. 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

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

UMH 662

1. Stand up and bless the Lord, ye people of his choice;
stand up and bless the Lord your God with heart and soul and voice.
2. Though high above all praise, above all blessing high,
who would not fear his holy name, and laud and magnify?
3. O for the living flame from his own altar brought,
to touch our lips, our minds inspire, and wing to heaven our thought!

4. God is our strength and song, and his salvation ours;
then be his love in Christ proclaimed with all our ransomed powers.
5. Stand up and bless the Lord; the Lord your God adore;
stand up and bless his glorious name, henceforth forevermore.

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

Amen

UMH 898

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Isaiah 58:6-12 (CEB)

Isn't this the fast I choose:
releasing wicked restraints, untying the ropes of a yoke,
setting free the mistreated,
and breaking every yoke?
Isn't it sharing your bread with the hungry
and bringing the homeless poor into your house,
covering the naked when you see them,
and not hiding from your own family?
Then your light will break out like the dawn,
and you will be healed quickly.
Your own righteousness will walk before you,
and the Lord's glory will be your rear guard.
Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help, and God will say, "I'm here."

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the finger-pointing, the wicked speech;
if you open your heart to the hungry,
and provide abundantly for those who are afflicted,
your light will shine in the darkness,
and your gloom will be like the noon.
The Lord will guide you continually
and provide for you, even in parched places.
He will rescue your bones.
You will be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water that won't run dry.
They will rebuild ancient ruins on your account;
the foundations of generations past you will restore.
You will be called Mender of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Livable Streets.

Romans 8:12-25 (CEB)

So then, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it isn't an obligation to ourselves to live our lives on the basis of selfishness. If you live on the basis of selfishness, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live. All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters. You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, "Abba, Father." The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God's children. But if we are children, we are also heirs. We are God's heirs and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with him so that we can also be glorified with him.

I believe that the present suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory that is going to be revealed to us. The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters. Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice—it was the choice of the one who subjected it—but in the hope that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children. We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Arr. Ed Lojeski

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WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
Randy Seward

African American Spiritual

† 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 freedom, we confess that we have given you our words more readily than our lives. We have accepted your gifts and kept them for ourselves, and we have walked past the hungry, the imprisoned, and the oppressed. By your Spirit of adoption, free us again from fear, and give us the freedom and power to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves, and to do good of every possible sort, as far as possible, to all people. Amen.

One: Hear the good news: in compassion God forgives our sin and frees us for lives of empowered obedience through the risen Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† Closing Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations

UMH 428

1. For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,
help us rise and pledge our word.

2. Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,
fear will die and hope increase.
3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span,
may we hallow life's brief span.
4. You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find,
earth its destiny may find.

† Benediction

Postlude

I'm Gonna Sing when the Spirit Says Sing

Mark Hayes

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

Flowers: in honor of Debbie Lynn for her service and dedication at the LJUMC office
Liturgist: Don Lincoln
Organist: Bob Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Steve Gray, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight, Russell Toppi
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