



Our Baptismal **VOWS**

Confess

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Call to Worship

One: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as Lord, in union with the church Christ opens to people of all ages, nations, and races?

All: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

One: Jesus asks us, as he asked at Caesarea Philippi, "Who do you say that I am?"

All: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

One: If God is for us, who is against us? Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, can separate us from the love of God.

All: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

One: In everything we are more than conquerors through the one who first loved us. Come, let us worship the Lord, in union with the church of every age, nation, and race.

All: With the whole church of every age, nation, and race, we confess with our lives and our lips: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. 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

God of Grace and God of Glory

UMH 577

1. God of grace, and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.
2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fear and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

3. Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.
4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

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

Matthew 16:13-20 (NRSVue)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Romans 8:31-39 (NRSVue)

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Anthem

There Is a Redeemer

Arr. Benjamin Harlan
©2000 BMG Songs

Message

Confess

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

† 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 grace, we confess that our words come more easily than our trust. When we confess Christ with our lips and cling to our own security, we draw borders around the church that you open to people of all ages, nations, and races. Help us to put our whole trust in your grace once again. By your Spirit, unite our words and our lives, and send us as faithful members of your church to serve Christ as Lord and represent him in the world. Amen.

One: Hear the good news: It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? 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

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (v1-3, 6)

UMH 378

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
6. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

† Benediction

Postlude

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

Flowers: from Joyce & Michael Theilacker in celebration of their 34th wedding anniversary
Liturgist: Joyce Theilacker
Organist: Bob Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Rod Betts, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight, Lon Showley
Tech Team: AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes
Guest Director: Jaclyn Francis
Guest Pianist: Daniel Theotas

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