



Our Baptismal **VOWS**

Nurture

Sunday, August 2, 2026
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Majesty (Here I Am)
with *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

M. Smith, and S. Garrard
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Call to Worship

One: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life, especially those who have come among us during the past year?

All: With God's help, we will nurture one another in the Christian faith and life.

One: The disciples said, "Send the crowds away to buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "There's no need to send them away. You give them something to eat."

All: With God's help, we will nurture one another in the Christian faith and life.

One: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you are called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.

All: With God's help, we will nurture one another in the Christian faith and life.

One: Everyone ate until they were full, and twelve baskets of leftovers remained. Come, let us worship the God who feeds us and builds us up in love.

All: We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone, so we gather as God's people. We come to build up Christ's Body, in humility and gentleness, with patience and love. With God's help, we will nurture one another in the Christian faith and life. 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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.

Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Blessing for Young Hearts

(Inform everyone of teaching this Sunday, dismiss children.)

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

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Ephesians 4:1-16 (NRSVue)

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

“When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people.”

(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love,

we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Matthew 14:13-21 (CEB)

When Jesus heard about John, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. When the crowds learned this, they followed him on foot from the cities. When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion for them and healed those who were sick. That evening his disciples came and said to him, "This is an isolated place and it's getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

But Jesus said to them, "There's no need to send them away. You give them something to eat."

They replied, "We have nothing here except five loaves of bread and two fish."

He said, "Bring them here to me." He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them and broke the loaves apart and gave them to his disciples. Then the disciples gave them to the crowds. Everyone ate until they were full, and they filled twelve baskets with the leftovers. About five thousand men plus women and children had eaten.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Special Music

Give Me a Clean Heart Margaret J. Douroux/Arr. John Herlgen
Joyce Theilacker, soloist ©2005 Augsburg Fortress

Message

Nurture

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

This week, thank God for someone who nurtured you in faith. Then choose someone you can care for before next Sunday. It might be a person in this congregation you haven't seen for a while, or maybe someone who has no connection to the church at all. Think about what that person might need, and prayerfully consider how you might meet that need. Then act on it. Talk with a family member or trusted spiritual partner about what you did, and ask them who they are caring for.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

My Tribute

Andrae Crouch
©1971 Bud John Songs, Inc.

† 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 abundance, we confess our need for you. We hunger for you, even though we too often look for fulfillment in all the wrong places. We feed our fear of scarcity while we send those in need to find sustenance elsewhere. Forgive us, and free us to feast on your abundant love. Give us the freedom and power to feed one another, to surround one another with love and forgiveness, and to grow together into the body of Christ. Amen.

One: Hear the good news: in compassion God forgives our sin and feeds us with the bread of life. 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

Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer
with *Nearer, My God, To Thee*

K. Getty, and M.Becker
S. Adams, and L. Mason
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Prayer After Communion

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† Closing Hymn

Tell Me The Stories of Jesus

UMH 277

1. Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.
2. First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the love-light of Jesus' face.
3. Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

† Benediction

Postlude

How Great Is Our God Jesse Reeves, Chris Tomlin, and Ed Cash
with *Praise To The Lord, The Almighty* Traditional German hymn
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Liturgical elements from *The Abingdon Worship Annual* and *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)*

Flowers: in honor of adored mother, mother-in-law and grandmother Pat Sell on her 90th birthday
Liturgist: Lon Showley
Organist: Bob Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Cindy Rushing, Gail Chatfield, Ann Davis, Ann Gonsalves, Janet Lind,
Leigh Kramer, Jean Thomas
Communion Servers: Ann Gonsalves, Debbie Lynn and Mark Maddox
Tech Team: AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes
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