



Our Baptismal **VOWS**

Believe

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Heavenly Sunlight

George Harrison Cook, arr. Mark Hayes
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Call to Worship

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was crucified, died, and was buried, and who on the third day rose again?

All: We believe that God raised him from the dead.

One: Very early in the morning Jesus came to his disciples, walking on the lake, and he said, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

All: We believe that God raised him from the dead.

One: The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart. If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

All: We believe that God raised him from the dead.

One: As Peter began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!" and Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. Come, let us worship the God who reaches out and takes hold of us.

All: We have renounced the powers that would claim us. We have accepted the freedom God gives. We have confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and promised to nurture one another. With the whole church, we believe that God raised him from the dead. As for us and our households, we will serve the Lord. 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

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

UMH 569

1. We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.

Refrain

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

2. We've a song to be sung to the nations, that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword.

Refrain

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

3. We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us, and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love.

Refrain

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

4. We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow hath trod,
that all of the world's great peoples might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God.

Refrain

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

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.

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Romans 10:5-15 (NRSVue)

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

“The word is near you,

in your mouth and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Matthew 14:22-33 (CEB)

Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, “It’s a ghost!” They were so frightened they screamed.

Just then Jesus spoke to them, “Be encouraged! It’s me. Don’t be afraid.”

Peter replied, “Lord, if it’s you, order me to come to you on the water.”

And Jesus said, “Come.”

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, “Lord, rescue me!”

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, “You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?” When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, “You must be God’s Son!”

Scriptural Response

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

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

Special Music

Candle on the Water
Jayson Coleman

Kasha/Hirschhorn
©1876 Walt Disney Music

Message

Believe

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

UMH 50

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Halfway Home
Jayson Coleman

Arr. Paul Horner
©Paul Horner Music Services

† 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: **Faithful God, reach out to us with your merciful love. Forgive us when we sink into sin, and turn away from you; when we too easily accept our shortcomings, and fall into the depths of silent apathy. Forgive us when we cling to the comfort of the boat while you call us forward in faith. As we call upon your holy name, reclaim us with**

your holy grace, that we may be your children, forgiven, renewed, and emboldened in the greatness of your unending love. Amen.

One: Hear the good news: take heart, Christ is with us and holds us with mercy and grace. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. 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**

Stand By Me

UMH 512

1. When the storms of life are raging, stand by me;
when the storms of life are raging, stand by me;
When the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the sea,
thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me.
2. In the midst of tribulation, stand by me;
in the midst of tribulation, stand by me;
When the host of hell assail, and my strength begins to fail,
thou who never lost a battle, stand by me.
3. In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me;
in the midst of faults and failures, stand by me.
When I've done the best I can, and my friends misunderstand,
thou who knowest all about me, stand by me.
4. In the midst of persecution, stand by me;
in the midst of persecution, stand by me;
When my foes in war array undertake to stop my way,
thou who saved Paul and Silas. stand by me;
5. When I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me;
when I'm growing old and feeble,
When my life becomes a burden, and I'm nearing chilly Jordan,
O thou Lily of the Valley, stand by me.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

The Solid Rock

E. Mote & Wm. B. Bradbury
Arr. Melody Bober
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: from Rebecca Tseng Smith, in honor of my sweet husband Tom Smith Tseng
and in celebration of our anniversary

Liturgist: Ann Davis

Organist: Bob Wuertz

Pianist: Rebecca Cosford

Ushers: Cindy Rushing, Gail Chatfield, Ann Davis, Ann Gonsalves, Janet Lind,
Leigh Kramer, Jean Thomas

Tech Team: AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

Guest Pianist: Laura Williams

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;
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