

**LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST**

The World Is My Parish

Sunday, August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

In the Garden

C. Austin Miles

arr. Mark Hayes

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Call to Worship – Liturgist

One: Family of God, we gather today to unite our voices and our lives in praise to God!

All: How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!

One: We gather to celebrate how God binds us together to live, work, play, and rest as the Body of Christ!

All: How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!

One: We gather to remember how God has worked through us to share Christ's love with one another and our neighbors through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

All: How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!

One: Family of God, today we come as diverse and unique members of the Body of Christ to learn and grow not in uniformity but in unity to love God, self, neighbor, and all creation.

All: How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity! 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

This Is My Song

UMH 437

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

3. This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him, and hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations; myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

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

Kyrie

TFWS 2275

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.
Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 (NRSVue)

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;

their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Matthew 15:21-28 (CEB)

From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, "Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession." But he didn't respond to her at all.

His disciples came and urged him, "Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us."

Jesus replied, "I've been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel."

But she knelt before him and said, "Lord, help me."

He replied, "It is not good to take the children's bread and toss it to dogs."

She said, "Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters' table."

Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish." And right then her daughter was healed.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Special Music

All the Time
Randy Seward

Manilow/Panzer
©1976 Swanee Bravo Music

Message

The World Is My Parish

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place Edmunds, Norwegian folk melody
arr. Melody Bober
©2011 Alfred 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: O God, we yearn to be a community of believers, united in your Spirit. And yet we are fraught with divisions: denominational, political, theological. We are weighed down by tensions and the things that break us apart. Forgive us, great God, for this great sin. Help us to learn to live in community together, loving one another, in spite of our differences, and respecting one another in everything that we do and say. Help us to be as you call us, one in heart and mind. Only through the grace of your son, Jesus Christ, can we achieve this. Amen.

One: God, who is merciful to all, forgives us all through the grace and compassion of Christ. 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

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

TFWS 2237

1. As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nation, finding neighbors everywhere.
2. We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, lightening Spirit we would live to God's delight.

3. As a green bud in the spring-time is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Oliver Holden
arr. Melody Bober
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: from Deborah Butera, in honor of Sal's birthday, August 13th
Liturgist: Rod Betts
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;
Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director; Erin Wyer, NS Executive Director