



Finding Grace

Knowing Who We Are

Sunday, August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

In the Sweet By-and-By

Jay Rouse

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Call to Worship

One: Come, let us worship God!

All: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

One: Come, let us worship our Shepherd!

All: We are the sheep of God's pasture, and we follow where God leads us.

One: Come, let us open our hearts!

All: We receive God's love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

One: Come, let us worship God, whose mercy guides and sustains us as the risen Christ sends us in grace.

All: We stand in grace, receive God's love, and go to share it. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Introit

Surely the Presence

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

Amazing Grace (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.

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

Romans 5:1-5 (CEB)

Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God's glory. But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Matthew 28:16-20 (CEB)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted. Jesus came near and spoke to them, "I've received all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age."

Scriptural Response

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Special Music

Breathe on Me
Joyce Theilacker, Soloist

Huesmann/Cunningham
©1996 River Oaks Music

Message

Finding Grace

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Softly and Tenderly

Jay Rouse
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† 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: Eternal God, from the beginning of time, you have called your children into communion with you. We confess that we have turned to our own ways and refused your love and grace. Restore us to the joy of knowing you and recognizing your work among us. By your Spirit, open our hearts to receive the grace you freely give and to follow where Christ sends us. Amen.

One: Hear the good news: through Jesus Christ, we have peace with God and stand in grace. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. 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

Lord, You Give the Great Commission (v1-2, 5)

UMH 584

1. Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity.

Refrain

With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

2. Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community.

Refrain

With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

5. Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity.

Refrain

With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

† Benediction

Postlude

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Marianne Kim

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

Flowers: in celebration of the 37th wedding anniversary of Tom & Cherie Huse

Liturgist: Tom Huse

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

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