



Tenacious Mission

Knowing Who We Are

Sunday, September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Softly and Tenderly

Jay Rouse

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Call to Worship

One: The Spirit of the LORD God brings good news to the oppressed and binds up the brokenhearted.

All: Send us to proclaim good news.

One: God proclaims liberty to the captives and comfort to all who mourn.

All: Send us to proclaim good news.

One: Jesus sees the crowds, harassed and helpless, and responds with compassion.

All: Send us to proclaim good news.

One: The harvest is plentiful. Christ calls and sends us to cure, restore, and rebuild.

**All: With holy tenacity, we will follow Christ to the people and places that need the good news.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Introit

Grace Alone v.1

TFWS 2162

1. Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,
every difference we will make is only by his grace.
Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,
every blessing left behind is only by his grace.

Refrain

Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he will provide.
Christ in us our Cornerstone; we will go forth in grace alone.

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

TFWS 2171

1. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love,
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
2. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.
3. Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.
4. Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Blessing for Young Hearts

Inform everyone of teaching this Sunday, go over memory verse, 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

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.

Congregational Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

TFWS 2193

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-4 (NSRVue)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me

because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives

and release to the prisoners,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

and the day of vengeance of our God,

to comfort all who mourn,

to provide for those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins;

they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,

the devastations of many generations.

Matthew 9:35-10:8 (CEB)

Jesus traveled among all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, announcing the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The size of the harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest.”

He called his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to throw them out and to heal every disease and every sickness. Here are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, who is called Peter; and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee; and John his brother; Philip; and Bartholomew; Thomas; and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus; and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean; and Judas, who betrayed Jesus.

Jesus sent these twelve out and commanded them, “Don’t go among the Gentiles or into a Samaritan city. Go instead to the lost sheep, the people of Israel. As you go, make this announcement: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with skin diseases, and throw out demons. You received without having to pay. Therefore, give without demanding payment.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

Change My Heart and Lord, Be Glorified

Espinosa/Kilpatrick
Arr. by John F. Wilson
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Message

Tanacious Mission

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

In the Sweet By and By

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: God of good news, we confess that we have insulated and isolated ourselves from people who are poor, oppressed, imprisoned, sick, and grieving. We have seen need and protected our own comfort. Forgive us. Open our eyes to the people around us, open our hearts to respond with grace, and open our hands for the work of healing and repair. Send us to love and serve as Jesus did. Amen.

One: Hear the good news: the Spirit of the Lord brings good news, liberty, comfort, and restoration. God forgives us and calls us again into the work of mercy. 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

Where Charity and Love Prevail

UMH 549

1. Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
2. With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.
3. Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.
4. Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;
be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.
5. Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.
6. Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.

† Benediction

Postlude

Concerto No. 2 in G Major

J.S. Bach/Arr. Hopson
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: In honor of Carlos del Pozo's birthday
Liturgist: Rod Betts
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Steve Gray, Rod Betts, Beau Brandon, Don Lincoln, Dan Martin
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