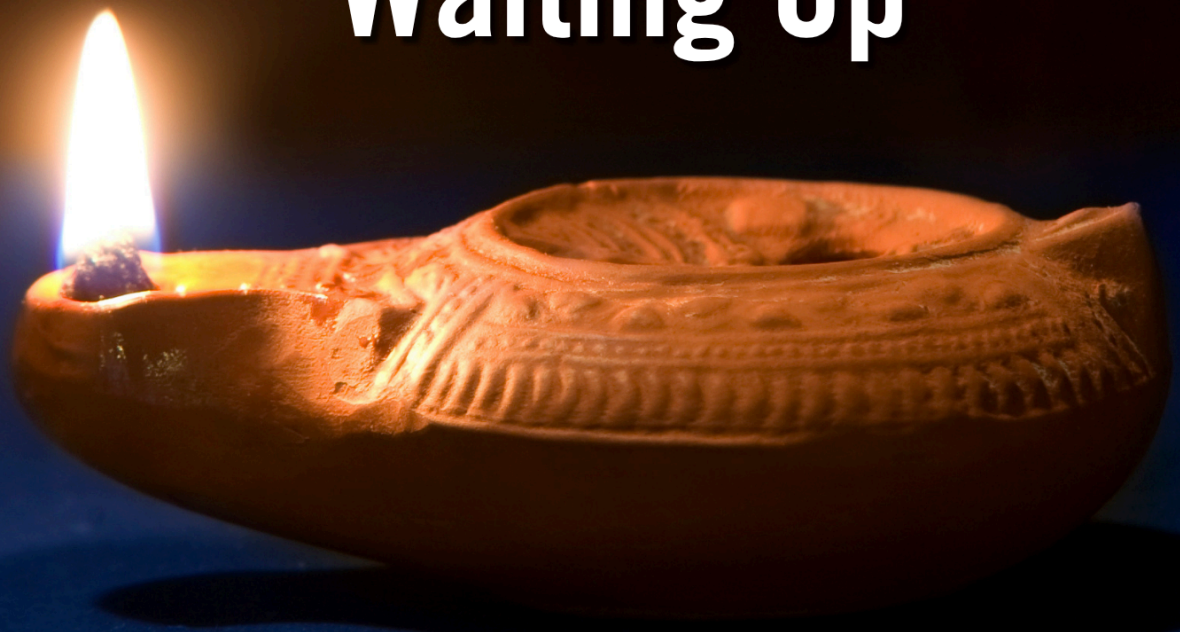
LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Waiting Up



Sunday, November 8, 2026

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music *More Precious Than Silver* Lynn DeShazo/Setting by Bettcher
©2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Call to Worship

One: Family of God, rejoice! The kingdom of God is all around us!
All: We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand.

One: Sometimes we grow weary in the waiting, and we wonder if we are watching and working for nothing.
All: We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand.

One: Sometimes God surprises, and we are overwhelmed by joy and wonder at all God is doing among us.
All: We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand.

One: Family of God, whether you are weary or energized, worried or wonder-filled, rejoice! The kingdom of God is all around us!
All: We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Congregational Introit *Christ Beside Me* TFWS 2166

1. Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me never to part.

2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising light of my life.

Welcome

† Opening Hymn *We Are God's People* TFWS 2220

1. We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
born of the Spirit, established by the Word.
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Christ we stand;
O let us live transparently and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ, our Lord,
for we have known it, the love of God outpoured.
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given;
O let us share each joy and care and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.

3. We are the body of which the Lord is Head,
called to obey Christ, now risen from the dead.
God wills us be a family diverse, yet truly one;
O let us give our gifts to God and so shall God's work on earth be done.

4. We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace.
We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire;
yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light and to inspire.

Blessing for Young Hearts

Elementary aged children will be excused for a time of teaching.

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 tresspasses, 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 *Song of Hope* TFWS 2186

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture Matthew 25:1-13 (CEB)

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps but didn't bring oil for them. But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil.

"When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.'

"Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.'

"But the wise bridesmaids replied, 'No, because if we share with you, there won't be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut.

"Later the other bridesmaids came and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us.'

"But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

"Therefore, keep alert, because you don't know the day or the hour.

Scriptural Response

One: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Anthem *Keep Your Lamps* Arr. Andre Thomas
©1982 Hinshaw Music

Message *Waiting Up* Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Think of someone who is waiting right now. Maybe they're waiting for a test result, waiting to heal, or waiting to hear from someone they love. Ask God to help you imagine what that waiting is like for them. Then make a plan to keep them company: call, visit, or share a meal, and listen to whatever they want to say, or just *be* with them in quiet. Later, talk with a trusted spiritual partner about what stood out to you in that experience, and consider how you might continue to be present for that person.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

† 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

One: Lord Jesus, you seem absent when we struggle with suffering, but you are there with your strength: Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.

One: Jesus Christ, often we forget you in the cares of everyday life, but you are there with us: Christ, have mercy.
All: Christ, have mercy.

One: Lord Jesus, we neglect to care for you in our sick and neglected brothers and sisters, but you want us to serve you in them: Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.

One: Forgive us all our sins, Lord, and make us look for your presence. Walk with us and lead us to the feast of everlasting life.
All: Amen.

One: God's grace is abundant and meets us where we are, forgiving us and inspiring us to stay awake and aware of all God is doing among us. 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 *I Love Thy Kingdome, Lord* UMH 540

1. I love thy kingdom, Lord,the house of thine abode,
the church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.

2. I love thy church, O God! Her walls before thee stand
dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.

3. For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend,
to her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.

4. Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways,
her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.

5. Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given
the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.

† Benediction

Postlude *How Majestic Is Your Name* Michael W. Smith/Setting by Bettcher
©2001 Meadowgreen Music

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

Flowers: in loving memory of Ted Koehler, Jr.
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

LJUMC Ministry Team

Pastor Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Pastor Rob Shearer, Director of Children & Youth Ministries
Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb & Lisa Valente, Office Administration;
Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director; Erin Wyer, NS Executive Director