



LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

# Perfect in Love

Sunday, June 9, 2024

Third Sunday after Pentecost

[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

**Gathering Music**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Arr. John A. Behnke

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### Call to Worship

One: Some of us come today with hearts weighed down with anxiety, fear, despair, and hurt.  
Together we cling to this truth:

**All: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Some of us come today with hearts that feel light with relief, joy, comfort, and gratitude.  
Together we cling to this truth:

**All: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Some of us come today not knowing what we think about God, confused and disappointed  
that the world God made is so full of evils of every kind. Together we cling to this truth:

**All: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Be with us, God, in all that we bring with us, as we gather to encounter your unchanging love.

**All: We come today to enter the dance of the Trinity who is perfect in love. Amen.**

**Introit**

*He Who Began a Good Work in You*

TFWS 2163

**Welcome**

† **Opening Hymn**    *In Unity We Lift Our Song*    TFWS 2221

1. In unity we lift our song of grateful adoration,  
for brothers brave and sisters strong. What cause for celebration!  
For those whose faithfulness has kept us through distress,  
who've shared with us our plight, who've held us in the night,  
the blessed congregation.
2. For stories told and told again to every generation,  
to give us strength in times of pain, to give us consolation.  
Our spirits to revive to keep our dreams alive,  
when we are far from home and evil seasons come;  
how firm is our foundation.

3. For sacred scriptures handed down, a blessed trust and treasure,  
which give us hope when hope is gone and make us weep with pleasure.  
And when our eyes grow blind and death is close behind,  
we shall recite them still whose words our hearts can fill  
with hope beyond all measure.
4. For God our way, our bread, our rest, of all these gifts the Giver.  
Our strength, our guide, our nurturing breast whose hand will yet deliver.  
Who keeps us till the day when night shall pass away,  
when hate and fear are gone and all our work is done,  
and we shall sing forever.

### **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**

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

TFWS 2195

## **WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

### **Scripture**

Psalm 138 (CEB)

I give thanks to you with all my heart, Lord.  
I sing your praise before all other gods.  
I bow toward your holy temple  
and thank your name  
for your loyal love and faithfulness  
because you have made your name and word  
greater than everything else.

On the day I cried out, you answered me.  
You encouraged me with inner strength.

Let all the earth's rulers give thanks to you, Lord,  
when they hear what you say.  
Let them sing about the Lord's ways  
because the Lord's glory is so great!  
Even though the Lord is high,  
he can still see the lowly,  
but God keeps his distance from the arrogant.

Whenever I am in deep trouble,  
you make me live again;  
you send your power against my enemies' wrath;  
you save me with your strong hand.  
The Lord will do all this for my sake.

Your faithful love lasts forever, Lord!  
Don't let go of what your hands  
have made.

### Scriptural Response

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

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

**Anthem**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  
Chancel Choir, Sue Boles, Flute

Arr. Craig Courtney  
©1998 Beckenhorst Press

**Message**

*Perfect in Love*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

**Response to the Word**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**

*Jesus Loves Me*

Tornquist and Wolaver  
©2007 Word Music

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: Holy and uncontainable God, for trying to contain you, forgive us.  
 Loving and limitless God, for trying to limit you, forgive us.  
 Gracious and boundless God, for trying to bind you, forgive us.  
 Sometimes we are foolish enough to believe that it is to our advantage to reduce you to something we can comprehend. Forgive us, Almighty God. Forgive us.**

One: Good people, let us give thanks to God with all our hearts. Let us sing God's praises and be grateful for God's loyal love and faithfulness. We live again in God's unending grace. 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

1. Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
 place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

*Refrain*

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God thy will to see.  
 Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2. Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
 and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

*Refrain*

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God thy will to see.  
 Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3. Open my mouth and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.

*Refrain*

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God thy will to see.  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

† **Benediction** –

**Postlude**

*How Majestic Is Your Name*

Michael W. Smith  
©2001 Meadowgreen Music

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

**Flowers:** From Marjorie Slankard & Alan Bergelson in celebration of their 33rd wedding anniversary.  
**Liturgist:** Lisa Corpron  
**Organist:** Robert Wuertz  
**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford  
**Ushers:** Gail Chatfield, Ann Davis, Ann Gonsalves, Leigh Kramer, Janet Lind,  
Cindy Rushing, Jean Thomas, Betsy Witt  
**Tech Team:** AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

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**LJUMC Ministry Team**

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Rev. Tara Limbaugh, Pastor of Connexion;  
Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb, Office Manager;  
Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director; Erin Wyer, NS Executive Director