



LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

# Prayers of the People

Worship with Rejoicing

Sunday, August 11, 2024  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

*Fugue*

Clerambault/Edited Hopson  
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### Call to Worship

One: We gather today knowing there are people in our world who are surrounded by violence and conflict on every side.

**All: Our work of peace begins with prayer.**

One: We gather today knowing there are people in our community who feel lost, alone, abandoned, and forgotten.

**All: Our work of love begins with prayer.**

One: We gather today knowing there are people in this place, this neighborhood, this world that we all share who experience overwhelming grief, despair, and sorrow.

**All: Our work of hope begins with prayer.**

One: We gather not to look away from the world but to witness the needs of our neighbors through the lens of God's love.

**All: May we be a people who pray and, out of our praying, do the work of bringing peace, love, and hope to all we encounter. Amen.**

### Congregational 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

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

TFWS 2128

1. Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see  
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,  
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,”  
raising courage when we’re shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.
3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other’s pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
There’s a place for deepest dreaming, there’s a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit’s lively scheming there is always room to spare.

## **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.

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

**Scripture** 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 (NRSVue)

The king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.” And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom.

So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country, and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword.

Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.

Then the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you." The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up to do you harm be like that young man."

The king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept, and as he went he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

### Scriptural Response

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

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

### Special Music

*Breath on Me*  
Joyce Theilacker

Huesman/Cunningham  
©1996 River Oaks Music

### Message

*Prayers of the People*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

*Prelude in F Minor*

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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:** O God of compassion, if you kept a record of our sins, who could stand? We come before you with our brokenness and our wounds for all to see. We bring our anger, our bitterness, our unwholesome talk, and our deceitfulness. We try to do good, but sometimes fail. We choose to do evil, and sometimes succeed. Keep your promise to forgive us when we confess to you completely. Without you, we have no hope.

One: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and will forgive us. God provides freely, in the bread of heaven, all the mercy we need for life everlasting. The good news is this: 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

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

**Flowers:** From Rebecca Tseng- Smith of honor of honor of my sweet husband,  
Tom Smith-Tseng in celebration of our anniversary

**Liturgist:** Debbie Lynn

**Organist:** Robert Wuertz

**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford

**Ushers:** Rod Betts, Steve Gray, Dan Martin, Peter McCreight

**Tech Team:** AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

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**LJUMC Ministry Team**

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