



LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

# Benediction

Worship with Rejoicing

Sunday, August 18, 2024  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

# WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

*Christians, We Have Met to Worship*

Larson

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## Call to Worship

One: Disciples of Christ, have you come today to receive a good word?

**All: Yes! We come to receive a good word and blessing to carry with us into the world.**

One: God blessed Solomon in a dream. Are you ready to dream?

**All: Yes! We come to dream of God's blessings we will carry with us into the world.**

One: God blesses us when we worship together. Are you ready to worship?

**All: Yes! We come to worship God together as we share in the good word of God's grace.**

One: Then, come! Let us worship with rejoicing!

**All: Praise be to God who gives us wisdom and draws us together as the family of God!  
Amen.**

Congregational Introit

*Surely the Presence*

UMH 328

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

*O Word of God Incarnate*

UMH 598

1. O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.
2. The church from you, our Savior, received the gift divine,  
and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the sacred vessel where gems of truth are stored;  
it is the heaven-drawn picture of Christ, the living Word.
3. The Scripture is a banner before God's host unfurled;  
it is a shining beacon above the darkling world.  
It is the chart and compass that o'er life's surging tide,  
mid mists and rocks and quicksands, to you, O Christ, will guide.
4. O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold,  
to bear before the nations your true light as of old.

O teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace,  
till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.

## **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**

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 (NRSVue)

Then David slept with his ancestors and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his kingdom was firmly established.

Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself

understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.”

### Scriptural Response

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

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

### Special Music

*Truth Be Told*  
Jayson Coleman

Matthew West  
©2019 Highly Combustible Music

### Message

*Benediction*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

*Idyl*

Mark Dorian  
© 2007 Dorian Music

### † 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 – Liturgist

All: **God of promise, you must shake your head in wonder at our ways. How can we say we want wisdom, when we foolishly squander the knowledge we have of your ways? How can we claim to follow you, when we walk the slippery roads of the world not caring where they lead us? How can we desire your great and steadfast love, when the simple seductions of our society are in full view every day?**

**God of perfect wisdom, how can you have mercy on such unwise and unfaithful people? Yet, that is exactly what you do: and our greed turns to gratitude, our pettiness to praise, our tantrums to thanksgiving, as hope and joy become our blessing through the One we call our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

**One:** In Christ, God sent redemption for all. In Christ, God feeds our hungry souls. In Christ, God gives the cup of salvation to thirsty people. We give thanks to God for everything: forgiveness, hope, new life. 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**

*A Charge to Keep I Have*

UMH 413

1. A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify,  
a never-dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky.
2. To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill;  
O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will!
3. Arm me with jealous care, as in thy sight to live,  
and oh, thy servant, Lord, prepare a strict account to give!
4. Help me to watch and pray, and on myself rely,  
assured, if I my trust betray, I shall forever die.

† **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Jubilation*

G.F.Handel/Arr. Hopson  
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**Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.**

**Flowers:** from the Wiggans family in memory of Kirk on his birthday  
**Liturgist:** Don Rushing  
**Organist:** Bob Wuertz  
**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford  
**Ushers:** Beau Brandon, Don Lincoln, 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 Wyr, NS Executive Director