

LA JOLLA  
UNITED METHODIST

# The Time for Singing Has Come

**Uncommon Wisdom**

Sunday, September 1, 2024  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

# WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

## Gathering Music

### Call to Worship

One: Welcome, Beloved of God! For truly, you are deeply, wonderfully, beautifully loved by the God of all creation!

**All: Come, let us worship God who loves us!**

One: Whether your week was filled with mountain-high joys or valley-low sorrows, peace like a gently flowing river, or stress like a stormy gale, this is the time to rise and come away to worship God who sustains and tends to you.

**All: Come, let us worship God who loves us and tends to us!**

One: In a world that pulls us this way and that, God's love is our True North, guiding us with an uncommon wisdom through all that life brings us.

**All: Come, let us worship God who loves us and guides us!**

One: Beloved, the time for singing has come, because God's love, care, and wisdom sustain and guide us wherever we go.

**All: Come, let us worship and sing to the God who loves, tends, guides, and sustains us!  
Amen!**

### Congregational Introit

*The Family Prayer Song*

TFWS 2188

1. Come and fill our homes with your presence;  
you alone are worthy of our reverence.

#### Refrain

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
We will serve the Lord.

2. Lord we vow to live holy,  
bowing our knees to you only.

#### Refrain

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
We will serve the Lord.

## Welcome

### † Opening Hymn

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

UMH 384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## 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

## WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

### Scripture

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 (NRSVue)

The voice of my beloved!  
Look, he comes,  
leaping upon the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.  
My beloved is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.  
Look, there he stands

behind our wall,  
gazing in at the windows,  
looking through the lattice.  
My beloved speaks and says to me:  
“Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away,  
for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away.

### Scriptural Response

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

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

### Special Music

*Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine*  
with *To God Be the Glory*

Arr. Lloyd Larson  
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### Message

*The Time of Singing Has Come*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

*Grand Jeu*

Jean Adam Guilain/ed. Hopson  
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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: Redeeming God, save us from our foolishness and guide us to your wisdom. Gather us in your righteousness and redemption. Forgive us, for we are seeking your light and your salvation. Cleanse us of our brokenness that we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.**

One: Because we are not worthy to enter God's dwelling, God came to dwell with us through the body and being of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Christ came to be with us, amongst us, and for us. Hear the good news of the Gospel: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Thanksgiving and Holy Communion – Musical Setting A**

UMH 17

*Online worshipers are invited to select elements including bread and juice (or similar) from their homes to participate in Holy Communion. Please wait until directed before receiving your elements.*

### **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.

### **Communion Song**

*Now Let Us from This Table Rise*

UMH 634

1. Now let us from this table rise renewed in body, mind, and soul;  
 with Christ we die and live again, his selfless love has made us whole.
2. With minds alert, upheld by grace to spread the word in speech and deed,  
 we follow in the steps of Christ, at one with all in hope and need.

3. To fill each human house with love, it is the sacrament of care;  
the work that Christ began to do we humbly pledge ourselves to share.
4. Then grant us courage, Father God, to choose again the pilgrim way,  
and help us to accept with joy the challenge of tomorrow's day.

### Prayer After Communion

## WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

### † Closing Hymn

*Praise the Source of Faith and Learning*

TFWS 2004

1. Praise the source of faith and learning that has sparked and stoked the mind  
with a passion for discerning how the world has been designed.  
Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey  
keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray:
2. God of wisdom, we acknowledge that our science and our art  
and the breadth of human knowledge only partial truth impart.  
Far beyond our calculation lies a depth we cannot sound  
where your purpose for creation and the pulse of life are found.
3. May our faith redeem the blunder of believing that our thought  
has displaced the grounds for wonder which the ancient prophets taught.  
May our learning curb the error which unthinking faith can breed  
lest we justify some terror with an antiquated creed.
4. As two currents in a river fight each other's undertow  
till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow,  
blend, O God, our faith and learning till they carve a single course,  
till they join as one, returning praise and thanks to you, their Source.

### † Benediction

### Postlude

*Allegro*

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

**Flowers:** In celebration of the beginning of the new school year at  
LJUMC Nursery School

**Liturgist:** Joyce Theilacker

**Organist:** Robert Wuertz

**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford

**Ushers:** Cindy Rushing, Gail Chatfield, Ann Davis, Ann Gonsalves,  
Janet Lind, Leigh Kramer, Jean Thomas, Betsy Witt

**Communion Servers:** Lisa Corpron, Margie Herrick, Jerri Williams

**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