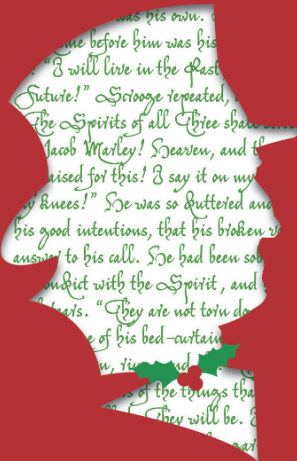




LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Jesus, the Redeemer of our Past



The Redemption of Scrooge

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Carol Sing

Call to Worship

One: Children of God, prepare the way! The Word of God is coming!

All: We come to listen and receive God's Word among us.

One: Children of God, the prophets call to us now and from generations past, urging us to prepare and refine our hearts for the coming of the Word of God. Are you listening?

All: We come to listen and prepare to receive God's Word among us.

One: Children of God, this is the mark of our preparation: that passion for God's Word would burn within us, cleansing us and renewing us to reflect God's love throughout the world.

All: May God ignite our passion for God's Word that has come among us as we listen, prepare, and receive all that God has for us today. Amen.

Congregational Introit

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

Blessed Be the God of Israel

UMH 209

1. Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.
2. Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.
3. On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace – The Crowder Family

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

Rejoice! Emmanuel

Arr. Donald Moore
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WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Matthew 4:18-23 (CEB)

As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." Right away, they left their nets and followed him. Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father repairing their nets. Jesus called them and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. He announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

O Come, All You Unfaithful
Chancel Choir
Lisa Corpron, Jayson Coleman, Soloists

Bob Kauflin/Lisa Clow
©2020 Sovereign Grace Praise

Message

Jesus, the Redeemer of Our Past

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
Dorian Bells

Arr. Jason Krug
©2021 Grassy Meadow 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

All: Living God, we need the tender mercy of your grace as we seek to comprehend the unending light of your love. Disperse the shadows in our lives, even those shadows we would prefer to ignore. Release those who sit in darkness, that they may find peace and hope in the places where fear holds sway. Come to us in unexpected ways, through unexpected stories and voices, and call us into the light of your salvation. Forgive us when we forget that you continue to speak, that you continue to call us toward your light. Open our hearts to your grace so that we may receive you more fully, and so that we may be transformed.

One: People of God, hear the good news of the gospel and rejoice! 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

People, Look East

UMH 202

1. People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.
3. Stars, keep the watch. when night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.
4. Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Angels from the Realms of Glory

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

Flowers: from the del Pozo family, in memory of Jose' del Pozo, whose birthday is December 6th.
Liturgists: The Crowder Family
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Rod Betts, Beau Brandon, Steve Gray, Peter McCreight, Don Rushing
Tech Team: AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

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