



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Holy Habits

Sunday, January 26, 2025
Third Sunday After the Epiphany
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Idyl

Mark Dorian
©2007 Dorian Music

Call to Worship

One: Children of God, we gather to worship, to sing and proclaim with joy the good works God is doing in our midst.

All: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

One: We also gather today to pray for our families, our community, and our world. To name the challenges that press in around us, to lament the suffering in our world, to declare our trust in God in the midst of hardship.

All: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

One: We, like those in Nazareth, gather to hear and receive the Word of God proclaimed among us. To encounter the life-giving message of God's love redeems us to be bearers of love and freedom in this world.

All: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

One: Children of God, listen. Pay attention. Ready your hearts. God is here. Jesus has come among us. The Spirit brings the Word to life in our midst. Are you ready?

All: We gather to worship, as is our custom. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Introit

We Praise Thee, O God

Arr. Donald Moore
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Welcome

† Opening Hymn

Gather Us In

TFWS 2236

1. Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light-years away, but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kingdom, now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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

Amen

Arr. Donald Moore
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WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Luke 4:14-21 (NRSVue)

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Arr. Ed Lojeski

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Message

Holy Habits

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Yearning"

by Mark Hayes

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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: Merciful God, as we seek to know your ways, may we be more ready to receive the gifts of others than to trumpet the gifts we have received. Lay your call to Christian unity on our hearts, as we listen to your precepts and seek to live them each day. As the heavens proclaim your praise, and the day and the night reveal your truth, open our hearts to those who need our care. Amen.

One: Hear the good news: God heals our illusion of separateness and makes us one and whole. 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

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing vs. 1-4

UMH 57

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
4. He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.

† Benediction

Postlude

"Great is the Lord"

Michael W Smith and Deborah D. Smith

Arr. Jay Rouse

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

Flowers: in memory of Harold "Shive" Shively

Liturgist: Don Rushing

Organist: Bob Wuertz

Pianist: Rebecca Cosford

Ushers: Dave Grundies, Dan Martin, Peter McCreight, Lon Showley, Charles Wurster

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