



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

Rejoice in the Vision

Sunday, February 16, 2025
Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany
www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Meditation (from the opera Thais)

Jules Massenet

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Call to Worship

One: Jesus declared, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

All: May we learn to depend on God's abundant provision instead of the world's grasping for wealth as we worship today.

One: Jesus declared, "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled."

All: May we learn to follow Christ's call to provide for the hungry as co-creators of God's kingdom as we worship today.

One: Jesus declared, "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."

All: May we learn to pay attention to those who suffer and mourn and to extend God's comfort and hope to those who need it as we worship today.

One: Jesus declared, "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man."

All: May our worship teach us to rejoice in that day and every day as we live out the good news in our families, neighborhoods, community, and world!

Introit

This Is the House of the Lord

Daniel Moore

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Welcome

† Opening Hymn

Rejoice in God's Saints

UMH 708

1. Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days;
a world without saints forgets how to praise.
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,
their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.
2. Some march with events to turn them God's way;
some need to withdraw, the better to pray.
Some carry the gospel through fire and through flood;
our world is their parish; their purpose is God.
3. Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,
who bear someone's cross or shoulder their own.

They shame our complaining, our comforts, our cares;
what patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!

4. Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days;
a world without saints forgets how to praise.
In loving, in living, they prove it is true:
the way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.

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

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Arr. Donal Moore

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WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Luke 6:17-26 (NRSVue)

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

One Faith, One Hope, One Lord

Craig Courtney
©1989 The Sacred Music Press

Message

Rejoice in the Vision

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Minuet (from Partita No. 1)

J.S. Bach
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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 Lord, we pause to confess that sometimes we listen to the advice of the ungodly. We know better, but for some reason, we listen anyway. Forgive us. The lure of a quick fix, easy money, or pleasure turned our heads away from you, Lord. Forgive us. We knew it was wrong as soon as we did it, but pride kept us from backing out of our decision. Forgive us. Teach us the joy of being righteous. Show us how to delight in being holy. Remind us that new life in Christ means new thoughts, new ways, new decisions. Forgive us for failing to trust you in all things. Amen.

One: In every impoverished place, every season of greatest longing, God is with us. In every instance of confusion or conundrum when we cannot find our way, God comes to be our guide. For every moment when our hearts hunger, when our souls thirst and our minds and bodies cry out, God plants us by streams of grace. God overcomes our pain until there is only life, only love, only joy. 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

Make Me a Captive, Lord

UMH 421

1. Make me a captive, Lord, and then I shall be free.
Force me to render up my sword, and I shall conqueror be.
I sink in life's alarms when by myself I stand;
imprison me within thine arms, and strong shall be my hand.
2. My heart is weak and poor until it master find;
it has no spring of action sure, it varies with the wind.
It cannot freely move till thou hast wrought its chain;
enslave it with thy matchless love, and deathless it shall reign.
3. My power is faint and low till I have learned to serve;
it lacks the needed fire to glow, it lacks the breeze to nerve.
It cannot drive the world until itself be driven;
its flag can only be unfurled when thou shalt breathe from heaven.
4. My will is not my own till thou hast made it thine;
if it would reach a monarch's throne, it must its crown resign.

It only stands unbent amid the clashing strife,
when on thy bosom it has leant, and found in thee its life.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

My Heart Ever Grateful (from Cantata 68)

J.S. Bach

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

Flowers: for Karen Brandon for organizing treats on the patio after worship
Liturgist: Deborah Butera
Organist: Bob Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Cindy Rushing, Gail Chatfield, Ann Davis, Ann Gonsalves, Janet Lind,
Leigh Kramer, Jean Thomas, Betsy Witt
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