## **April 28, 2024**

As you are able, please stand.

Prayer cards collected.

Bold text spoken in unison.



#### 10:30 AM

Children are Welcome! Hearing assist devices are available from the ushers.

# 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER GATHERING

Prelude Prière à Notre Dame Henri Venanzi

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

Greeting

♣ Call to Worship Joanna Harader

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.

♣ Hymn Christ Is Alive UMH #318

♣ Prayer

Loving God, you nourish us with your love and grace every day. When we live in you, your love flows out from us into every relationship, every word, every thought, every action. Help us to use your love as a guide for others, so that all will come to blossom in your creative and forgiving love. Help us also to live out your love at home, at work, at school, on the highway, and with friends, neighbors, and even strangers. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our foundation and our peace. Amen.

♣ The Peace of Christ

The Peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

Our Life Together Marnos Lelesi (You are invited to fill out the attendance registers and prayer cards located in the pews.)

Music I Will Sing with the Spirit John Rutter
Sanctuary Choir (b. 1945)

Introduction to the Scripture Reading Rev. Erika Gara

Preparing Our Hearts Great Is Thy Faithfulness UMH #140

☐ Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

## THE WORD

Prayer Before Reading Margo Berdanis

Look deep, Loving God, and see us as we really are—yearning to be close to you, yet fearful of what you may ask; desiring to be faithful, yet hesitant to go the extra mile; wanting to be loving, yet resistant to caring in particular situations. Loving God, we are a tangled vine. As we hear your word for us today, may these words help to prune us and train us to grow in your holy and loving ways. **Amen.** 

Reading John 15:1-8 NT p. 109

## The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon How to Be a Branch Rev. Erika Gara

♣ Hymn Lord, I Want to Be a Christian UMH #402 (vv. 1, 2 & 4)

#### THANKSGIVING

7 Offering Music Praise the Lord George Frideric Händel Sanctuary Choir (1685-1759)

♣ Doxology (Song of Praise)
UMH #95

☐ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

UMH #895

#### **SENDING**

♣ Hymn I Need Thee Every Hour UMH #397

♣ Benediction (Blessing)

Postlude Postlude in G Major George Frideric Händel
Henri Venanzi

The Postlude is the concluding part of worship.

As you leave, please be considerate of those who wish to remain and listen.

We are a community of gratitude and prayer and share together in that responsibility. **Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance Register located at the end of the pew and pass it to your neighbor.** Joys and prayer concerns may be shared by filling out a Prayer Request card in worship and placing it in the offering plate. If you would like a caring card sent, please be sure to include the address on the back of the card.

-----

## **Sharing in Worship Today:**

Lead Pastor: Rev. Erika Gara

Director of Choral Music: Alan Wellman

Reader: Margo Berdanis

Collaborative Artist: Henri Venanzi

A/V Technician: Patti Eckenroth

Ushers: Joe Gargaro, Charlie Quaife, Merlin Thimlar, Lietta Wagner

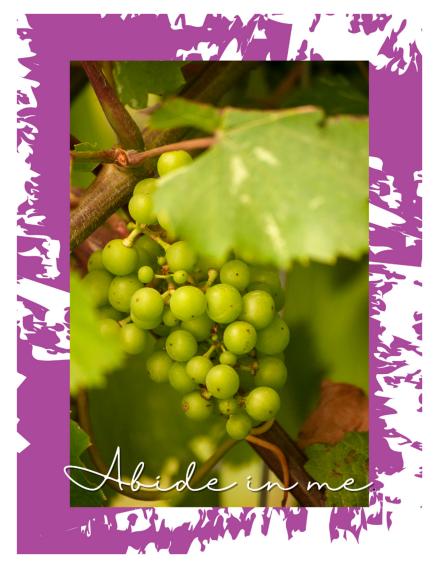
Building Lock-up: Curt Kurtz

### **LAUMC Mission Statement**

We are a church where God's grace is experienced through Jesus Christ and all people are welcome. We are called to share the Good News, to grow in the image of Christ, to worship joyfully, and to manifest God's love toward one another and the world.







5950 EAST WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CA 90815
PHONE: (562) 598-2451
EMAIL: OFFICE@LOSALTOSUMC.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.LOSALTOSUMC.ORG