

THE 'NEXT STEPS' PATHWAY

We're a 'come as you are' church. Whoever and wherever you are, you are welcome here. However, we expect you to leave changed. A relationship with God will change your story and transform your life. We witness this transformation through three stories:

GOD'S STORY

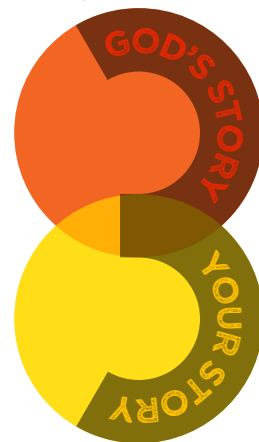
LJPC is a place where people "enter, encounter and engage" God's story. Our desire is for people to hear about and understand God's story of love and concern for all people.

YOUR STORY

LJPC cares about your story and wants to help you share your story. We are a better church when you know your story and develop a passion to share that story. We expect your story to enrich our story.

OUR STORY

LJPC "lives out" our story together in words and in actions. As we get to know our community and world we see how we are all a part of a greater story. God's story and our story intersect in the mission that God calls us to do.



WHERE TO BEGIN

Whether you are a long-time member or a first time visitor, a lifelong Christian or an unbeliever, we want to invite you to take the first step, to BEGIN the journey of discovering these amazing stories.

That's why we are hosting a very special BEGIN Event on January 28th. Please plan on joining us for a morning of fun, discovery, and vision. A time of hearing stories and sharing stories. A time to unpack where God is leading you and where He is inviting you to experience more of His joy in your life. Start 2017 with a new pathway and new vision for building Our story together.

BEGIN

JANUARY 28, 2017 • 8:30-11:30AM AT LJPC

Announcements

Thank you to Dr. Keith Pedersen, Director; members of the LJPC Chancel Choir; and William Lullo, Organist.

Please note that there will be one service at 10:00AM tomorrow, Christmas Day. We will all worship together, in the Fellowship Hall around tables, with treats and conversation.

Please remember LJPC in your Christmas and End-Of-Year giving. December giving has always determined our financial situation for the upcoming year, and this month has been slow. Our budgeted income for the month of December is \$448,000 and our income through December 20th is approximately \$201,000. If you are in a position to help with this situation your generosity would be greatly appreciated.

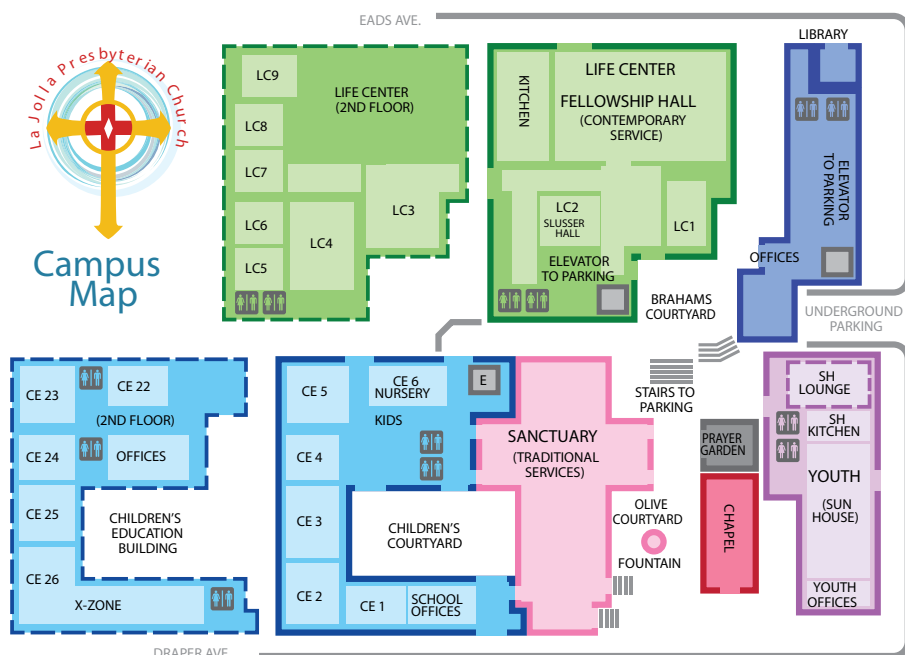
You may donate online at www.ljpres.org. Look for the "donate" button under "online giving". There are also 2016 tax advantages to donating gifts of stock or IRA rollover. This is a great time to bless the work we do with an end of year gift.

Share Your Christmas Eve Photos: We want to share your Christmas Eve experience. Please email your pictures of the Nativity Scene or other Christmas Eve moments to photo@ljpres.org for our Facebook album or use the hashtag #ljpcchristmas.

PRAYERS AND PRAISE: Healing and Comfort: Joan K., Betsy W., Debbie T., Edith B.A., Allison B., Jackie P., Rosie S., Paul G., Trip B., Serena, Geri C., Joseph C., Ilene S., Frank S., Patti G., Gladys G., Simone F., Benny T. Jr., Kim P., Carol C. & Oliver C., Bette O., Andrea O., Bill B., Julianne C. & Riley C., Marie G & son, Betty W., Barbara, Beverly R., Suzanne B., Betty B., Anne O., Jessica M., Ken B., Liv B., Farshad, Laura H., Marcelo M., Ronald R., Stacy M., Rick S., Eva G., Cyndee N. & Phil N., Macy W., **Guidance and Peace:** Dan P., Tom M., Viegas Family, Li, Marlen, Phil C., **Strength, Protection, and Encouragement:** Tyler, Christine W., Jaime A., Amy O., James H. & Family, Allison J., Arenz Family, Quint Family, **Praise and Gratitude:** Jackie P., Locke Family, Hinder Family, Louise S., **We Also Pray For:** Chanel C., Sara, Marilyn C., Ian J., Anja K., Sally K., Alex & C.J., Casey J., Lily R., Sophia, *For prayers, praise, or to be included on the prayer list, email: prayerdeacon@ljpres.org by Sunday night to be included in the next week's bulletin. Requests are held in confidence.*

To see photos and video, like LJPC on Facebook at: [facebook.com/LaJollaPres](https://www.facebook.com/LaJollaPres)

To receive our weekly electronic newsletter, send an email to: newsletter@ljpres.org



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Merry Christmas! Unto Us a Savior is Born

PRELUDE *Medley of Carols* Traditional
William Lullo, Organist

WELCOME AND GREETING Rev. Dr. Paul Cunningham

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE
Mack, Pam, Luke, Paul & Grandfather Mack Vickrey (7pm)
Steve, Stephanie, Brad & Kimberly Williams (9pm)

†**CHRISTMAS CAROL #193** *O Come All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

(Refrain) O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Refrain)

OPENING PRAYER Rev. Dr. Paul Cunningham

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 40:1-5

†**CHRISTMAS CAROL #169** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Stan Beard (7pm)
Rev. Scott Mitchell (9pm)

O God, we come to you acknowledging our failures to live fully for you. We have allowed darkness to overcome light. In our hurry to get everything done, we have neglected the meaning of Advent and your birth. We have hardened our hearts and not seen nor heard the needs of others. God, move us to compassion for those who are suffering. Forgive us for our selfish ways. Help us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you. Help us to bring peace on earth and remove the obstacles that keep us from loving you and our neighbor. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CHRISTMAS CAROL #178 *O Little Town of Bethlehem (v.1 & 4)*
Please Remain Seated

O little town of Bethlehem; How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep; The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth; The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

O Holy Child of Bethlehem; Descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in; Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels; The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us; Our Lord Emmanuel

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Stan Beard (7pm)
Rev. Scott Mitchell (9pm)

GIVING OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *He Came Here For Me* Nelson
LJPC Chancel Choir
Dr. Keith Pedersen, Director

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:26-38 Rev. Stan Beard (7pm)
Rev. Scott Mitchell (9pm)

†**CHRISTMAS CAROL** *O Holy Night*

O holy night, The stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of, Our dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world, In sin and error pining,
Till He appeared, And the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, The weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks, A new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us, To love one another;
His law is love and, His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, For the slave is our brother
And in His name, All oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in, Grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us, Praise His holy name!
Christ is the Lord, Oh praise His name forever,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

MEDITATION Luke 2:1-15 Rev. Dr. Paul Cunningham

SPECIAL MUSIC *By Candlelight* arr. Schram
LJPC Chancel Choir
Dr. Keith Pedersen, Director

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD John 1:1-5 Rev. Stan Beard (7pm)
Rev. Scott Mitchell (9pm)

Please remain seated as the choir comes to light your candles and we sing Silent Night. In order to avoid spilling melted wax, only the unlit candle should be tilted to receive light. Please extinguish after the carol.

CHRISTMAS CAROL #195 *Silent Night*

Silent night, Holy night; All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child; Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in Heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace

Silent Night, holy night; Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar; Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born

Silent Night, holy night; Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy Holy face; With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus Lord at Thy birth

CLOSING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Dr. Paul Cunningham
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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever. Amen.

†**CHRISTMAS CAROL #171** *Joy To The World*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow, Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

†**BENEDICTION** Rev. Dr. Paul Cunningham

†**POSTLUDE** *O Holy Night* Adams
William Lullo, Organist

† Please stand if you are able. Our thanks for leaving your discarded bulletins at either end of your pew.

Hearing Devices And Large Print Bulletins: Our ushers will be glad to provide you with a helpful hearing device and a large print bulletin.