

Ascension of the Lord, Kateryna Dmyterko, Ukraine



MOUNT HOLLYWOOD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, we are so glad you are worshiping with us today. Welcome home!

***Sixth Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday
May 5, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.***

We Gather in Community

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Joe Lawrence

Rev. Ashley

Young People

Reading: Luke 24:45-46, 48-52

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

Then (Jesus) opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day... You are witnesses of these things. Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy...

↑**Hymn**

#459

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

↑**Gathering Responsive Prayer**

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

Peter Traben Haas, adapted

One: Jesus our friend and our guide, we make our claim on reality requesting-
Forgiveness for every debt, provision for every need,

All: strength for every weakness, comfort for every trouble,

One: healing for every sickness, peace for every anxiety,

All: joy for every sorrow, awareness for every stumble,

One: love for every longing, companionship for every loneliness,

All: presence for every absence, meaning for every emptiness,

One: bread for every hunger, water for every thirst,

All: shelter for every storm, and abundance for every lack.

One: You part the waters again and again, inviting us to ask, seek, and knock.

All: Help us be faithful, creative heralds of your love and tireless practitioners of your ways, even when it is hard. For your sake. For the world's sake. For our sake. Amen.

↑**Passing the Peace**

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

One: We are invited to feast at the table of God's Shalom, to seek the well-being and the wholeness of all creation. Peace for our bodies. Peace for our souls.

All: Peace in our relationships. Peace in our world.

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the sign of peace with one another.

We Share the Word

Time with our Young People and Young at Heart

Rev. Ashley

All are invited to come forward and sit in the front if they feel led. Afterwards, ages K-5th grade are invited to Godly Play next door. They will return for communion.

Choral Anthem

“Oh, How He Loves You And Me”

Kurt Kaiser

Mount Hollywood Choir

↑Please rise in mind, body, or spirit.

Reading

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds
How We Learned to Rise: An Ascension Sunday Fable
written by the Rev. Dr. Lori Walker

Reflection

Rev. Ashley

We Break Bread Together**Invitation to the Table**

Rev. Ashley

This is an open table. No matter where you are on Life's Journey, you are welcome!

Communion Song

Come to the Table of Grace

Come to the table of grace
Come to the table of grace
This is Christ's table not just yours or mine
Come to the table of grace

Come to the table of peace
joy
love

Words and music by Barbara Hamm, Copyright 2008

Remembering the Story Sharing the Elements**Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)**

As one body, we lament with those who lament. We hope with those who hope. We live with suffering. We live with beauty. Let us go from this table as a renewed community, doing the radical work of Jesus that calls us to live justice-making lives of faith. We are followers of God's Way. We give thanks. Amen.

We Pray and We Give**Joys, Concerns and Discoveries - Silent Prayer**

Rev. Ashley

It is our practice at Mt. Hollywood to share our Gratitude and Joy, Concerns and Discoveries.

Our Common Prayer (Unison) *Please pray the words that are most meaningful for you.*

Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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.

Invitation to the Offering

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

↑Please rise in mind, body, or spirit.

Choral Offertory

“God Never Failed Me Yet”
Mount Hollywood Choir

Robert Ray

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

Holy Spirit—undo, unlearn, unravel every myth of scarcity we have been taught, every legacy of violence passed down. Pour into us the refreshing splendor of interdependence, of belonging to one another. Bless our offerings to our unfolding dreams. Amen.

We Are Sent

↑**Sending Hymn**

#391 vs. 1-3, & 5 *In the Midst of New Dimensions*

↑**Sending Forth**

Rev. Ashley

May you find time to stop and stare, to lift up your eyes. May you wonder at the miraculous and the beautiful, which are all around us waiting to be noticed.

May your hope swoop and soar like a kite, trailing prayers behind it.

And when your attention is pulled back... down... may you feel your connection with the earth quiet and strong holding you steady like the hands of God.

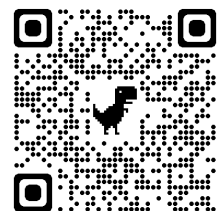
Postlude

Joe Lawrence

Welcome to Mount Hollywood United Church of Christ. We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace Church, and we are so glad you are here! Please be in this space in the ways that feel good for you. Restrooms are located off the courtyard, and a changing table for infants is located in the restroom in the main church.

After worship, we will take a five minute snack break and then reconvene for a special congregational meeting. This meeting is to vote on a resolution of witness to be formally submitted to our Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. In accordance with the church bylaws, members and associate members may vote, though all are welcome to attend the meeting!

All Members, Ministers
Rev. Ashley Hiestand, Pastor
Joe Lawrence, Music Director
Clay Widdifield, Moderator
Vincent Lopez, Technical Director



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↑Please rise in mind, body, or spirit.