

↑**Gathering Song** #391 vs. 1-3 *In the Midst of New Dimensions*

↑**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.

Peace in our relationships. Peace in our world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

### **Birthday Blessing**

### **We Share the Word**

**Time with our Young People** *Fry Bread, by Kevin Noble Maillard* Rev. Ashley

*All young people and young at heart are invited to come forward as they feel led! Grades K-5 are then invited to depart for Godly Play.*

**Choral Anthem** "Shine on Me" arr. Rollo Dilworth

Mount Hollywood Choir

**Reading: Matthew 25:14-30** Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

(see insert)

**Reflection** Rev. Ashley

### **We Pray Together**

**Hymn** #499 vs. 1 (x2) *In All Our Living*

**Joys, Concerns and Discoveries - Silent Prayer** Juan Sánchez

*It is our practice to share our Gratitude and Joy, Concerns and Discoveries*

**Our Common Prayer (Unison)** *Please use the words that are most meaningful for you. The version below is written by Mount Hollywood's Doug Jacobs.*

When life forces me to choose values

Whether I am sure of them or not –

When I feel I had better choose to like

the warmth of sunshine

than to risk indifference –

When all is chaos and my only recourse

is the salvation of clichés –

I devoutly repeat my litany:

Our world which art inconclusive

Respected be thy silence

Our senses sense, and the world be seen

As it is in truth, and not in dreams.

Give us each day a simple pleasure

Which gives us our values as we give value

And lead us not into isolation

But deliver us from fear –

For here is the kingdom, the power, and the glory.

In men

and women.

Amen.

–D.W. Jacobs

### **We Give**

**Words that Inspire us to Give** Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

*You can also find our QR code to give online on the back of the program.*

**Offertory** "The Foundling" Hall Johnson

Rada Jovicic

**Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)** *enfleshed* Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

Holy One, we love compassion. We love solidarity. We love when all people have safety, nourishment, and rest. We love when creation is tenderly cared for. We

gather our offerings today as an expression of what we love. Bless our collected resources to do your work in the world. Amen.

### We Are Sent

**Announcements**

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

↑ **Closing Song**

#425

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

↑ **Benediction**

Rev. Ashley

**Postlude**

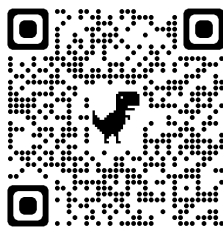
Joe Lawrence

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

↑ Please stand in mind, body, or spirit as you are able.

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**MOUNT HOLLYWOOD**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

***Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost***  
***November 19, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.***

### We Gather in Community

**Welcoming Music**

Joe Lawrence

**Welcome**

Rev. Ashley

**Land Acknowledgement**

Rev. Ashley

**Ringing of the Bell**

Young Person

**Call to Worship**

*enfleshed*

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

One: God shepherds us towards pastures of compassion,

**All: She leads us to wide, roaming fields of connection,**

One: She calls us by name & blesses our lives, saying:

**All: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,**

One: and I will give you rest

**All: for I am gentle and lowly in heart,**

and you will find rest for your souls.

**Gathering Prayer (in unison)**

*enfleshed*

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

Rest with us, oh God. Cradle us in your everlasting mercy. Bless the bereaved

with sleep. Anoint the feet of those marching towards collective liberation.

Refresh those doing the work of healing. Restore those weary from bearing

witness. Be gentle with us, oh God, your people are in need of rest. Amen.

**Reading: Matthew 25:14-30**

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant's ability. Then he left on his journey. "After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money. "Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, 'Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I've gained five more.'

"His master replied, 'Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me. "The second servant also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I've gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.' "Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven't sown. You gather crops where you haven't spread seed. So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what's yours.' "His master replied, 'You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven't sown and that I gather crops where I haven't spread seed? In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don't have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.' "People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

**Advent and Christmas at Mount Hollywood UCC**

**Sunday, November 26th at 10:30 am**

**Church for All Ages: Making Room**

***What do you want to make room for in your life this season?***

Please bring your advent wreath metal ring from years past if you are able! We will also provide them in worship. Christmas tree decorating after worship!

**Sunday, December 3rd at 10:30 am**

First Sunday of Advent: Making Room for Hope  
Communion Sunday

**Sunday, December 10th at 10:30 am**

Second Sunday of Advent: Making Room for Peace

**Sunday, December 17th at 10:30 am**

Third Sunday of Advent: Making Room for Joy  
No-Rehearsal Pop-Up Christmas Pageant for All Ages! Just show up!

**Friday, December 22nd at 7:30 pm**

Blue Christmas Service  
Zoom only with Westwood Hills Congregational Church

**Sunday, December 24th at 4pm**

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Making Room for Love  
Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

**Sunday, December 31st at 10:30 am**

Worship with singer/songwriter Robert Morgan Fisher

**Sunday, January 7th at 10:30 am**

Epiphany and Stewardship Sunday  
Bring your pledge card to church! Community brunch to follow.

