

Gathering Prayer

by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema

Ron Taylor

One: Holy One, Ruler of rulers, Sovereign of sovereigns, Judge of judges, we come to you with feelings more than with words, trusting that there is nothing that a prayer is better suited for than the weariness or rage or confusion that lives in our breath and bones, our cells and sighs.

All: God, we need your fierce love, Christ, we need your tender rage, O God, we need your collective power, so we can know freedom.

One: We pray with those of us whose anger ignites at this miscarriage of justice, whose deep hurt at the reminders of how little some lives matter and how broken our systems remain, has become the bright light of rage.

All: Christ, who is our only Ruler, we are desperate for your reign of prophetic fire. Empower us to pledge our hearts to embody the kind outrage that turns the tables on the violence inflicted on your beloved children.

One: We pray with those of us who are not surprised by this verdict, who know what a mostly white jury means, who recognize how small and furtive justice must be in a system bound by white supremacy.

All: Christ, who is our only Sovereign, we are longing for your kingdom to come. Find us in our pessimism and lead us in the ways of accountability that transforms that our hope may be renewed by your vision of just mercy.

One: We pray with those of us who trust this decision, who have confidence that this outcome shows us the truth of what happened, who want to believe that equality and fairness are the heart of our legal system.

All: Christ, who is our only Judge, we are praying for your righteousness. Convert our unquestioning allegiance and deepen our understanding of the histories that shape us, that we may be convicted by your love to change our minds about what is true, and right, and just.

One: To the one who loves us and frees us, we lift up our prayers, that our anger might become sacred fire, cleansing and renewing the earth; that our despair might become hopeful vision, guiding us toward freedom; that our confidence might become humble curiosity, bringing your promised reign closer to us.

All: To God be glory and dominion, forever and ever. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Ron Taylor

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.

We invite you to unmute yourself as you pass the peace!

We Share the Word

Time with our Young People

Rev. Ashley

Solo

"River"

Leon Bridges

Autumn Ericson, soloist

Reading

II Corinthians 3:1-3

Ron Taylor

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Surely we do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? **You yourselves are our letter**, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Reflection

Born for Just Such a Time as This

Rev. Jim Antal

We Pray

Centering Hymn

#564, Verses 1, 2, & 4

We Are Not Our Own

Joys, Concerns and Discoveries - Silent Prayer

Rev. Ashley

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

Our Common Prayer (Unison)

Traditional Version:

Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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.

Womanist Version:

Our Mother, who is in heaven and within us, we call upon your names. Your wisdom come. Your will be done, in all the spaces in which You dwell. Give us each day sustenance and perseverance. Remind us of our limits as we give grace to the limits of others. Separate us from the temptation of empire, but deliver us into community. For you are the dwelling place within us, the empowerment around us, and the celebration among us, now and forever. Amen.

We Give

Words that Inspire us to Give: Pledging Season Reflection

Juli Otis

Invitation to the Offering

Ron Taylor

Offertory

“The Foundling”
Rada Jovicic, soloist

Hall Johnson

Prayer of Dedication

Ron Taylor

We Are Sent

Announcements

Ron Taylor

Closing Hymn

#562

Take My Gifts (tune Holy Manna)

Parting Blessing

Rev. Jim Antal

Postlude

Joe Lawrence

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All Members, Ministers
Rev. Ashley Hiestand, Pastor
Joe Lawrence, Music Director
Daren Sprawls, Moderator



MOUNT HOLLYWOOD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

For Reflection: “I used to think that if we threw enough good science at the environmental problems, we could solve them. I was wrong. The main threats to the environment are not biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change, as I once thought. They are selfishness and greed and pride. And for that we need a spiritual and cultural transformation...” -James “Gus” Speth

~ **Order of Worship** ~

November 21, 2021 at 10:30 am

We Gather in Community

Welcome Music

Joe Lawrence

Welcome

Rev. Ashley

Ringing of the Bell

Young Person

Centering Time

Rev. Ashley

Be still and know that God is God
Be still and know that God is. Be still and know
Be still. Be.