



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!

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Communion Sunday

The Good News is... great love for God and neighbor

'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

-of Matthew 25

We Gather in Community

Welcoming Music

Joe Lawrence

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Ashley

Ringing of the Bell

Young Person

Call to Worship

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

One: Tell me something good!

All: God loves us more than we can imagine. In all of our imperfections.

One: Tell me something good!

All: God loves all of creation more than we can imagine. From the tiny ant to the tallest evergreen tree.

One: Tell me something good!

All: God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

One: This is good news indeed!

All: Let us worship our compassionate God, the ground of our being.

↑**Gathering Hymn**

#28

For the Beauty of the Earth

↑**Unison Gathering Prayer**

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that you have for them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the

times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Wash your grace over us and give us the courage to try again. Thank you God for not turning your back on us and for this unending love. 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 and Young at Heart

Rev. Ashley

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

Choral Anthem

"Before the Cross of Christ We Stand"
Mount Hollywood Choir

Lloyd Larson

Reading

Luke 7:36-50

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Minister's Reflection

Rev. Ashley

↑Please rise in mind, body, or spirit.

We Pray & We Give

Hymn (you may remain seated)

Spirit, Open My Heart

Spirit, open my heart, to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

Write your love upon my heart, as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.

Spirit, open my heart, to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

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 Creator God, Who is in heaven and is 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 temptations of empire, and 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.

Invitation to Generosity

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

You are invited to place your offering on the back table during the solo or during communion.

We Break Bread Together & Are Sent

This is an open table. No matter where you are on Life's Journey, you are welcome! We use grape juice for communion, and have a gluten free option.

Solo

"Jesus, Bread of Life"
Autumn Lawrence, soloist

A. Assad, F. Ortega

Communion Litany for these Times

Rob Hardy, 2/2/26

Rev. Ashley

One: There's no bread. The bakers have gone into hiding.

All: The seats at the table are empty. The Twelve are out marching with the thousands.

One: The streets are filled with a new song.

All: Only Judas sits at Target Plaza, counting his silver, while Pontius Pilate issues a carefully-worded statement.

One: Meanwhile, the centurions have quotas to fill.

All: But out on the street, there's a communion.

One: Jesus takes the city in his hands and says,

All: "This is my body, broken for you." Minister continues...

↑Please rise in mind, body, or spirit.

Sharing the Elements Together

Rev. Ashley

After the elements are blessed, you are invited to come forward during the communion song. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, we are happy to bring it to you.

↑**Communion Song**

Words by Jim Burklo

Deeper Love

*For deeper love we share the bread, I won't be full till all are fed
Till every soul has home and bed, the rest of us can't move ahead
For deeper love we share the wine, I cannot taste the love divine
Till every soul has walked the line, and you've had yours as I've had mine
We follow where the Christ has led, to table that for all is spread
And no one's sitting at the head, but deeper love in wine and bread*

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving Plymouth UCC

Faithful God, who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives, as we offer these gifts, we remember Your sustaining presence. In this season of spiritual renewal, strengthen us to resist temptation and guide us to live in community with love and grace. Empower us to rise together, supporting one another on this journey of faith and transformation. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

↑**Sending Hymn**

#260

Send Me, Lord

Sending Blessing

Rev. Ashley

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 there! All gender restrooms are located off the courtyard, and a changing table for infants is located in the restroom in the main church. Please join us after worship in the courtyard for coffee and fellowship.

You are invited to join the Jean Koch Social Justice Justice Club during Coffee Hour in supporting the Palestinian Detainee Program, by writing postcards to women currently being held in Israeli jails.

For Lent this year, we're choosing to pay attention to the good news. As Nadia Bolz-Weber reminds us, we don't practice this to turn away from the world's pain, we practice it to pay attention to it- in real time and real life. The hard things will still be there. But so will the crocus pushing up through frozen ground. And this is not the year to miss the good stuff.

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

↑Please rise in mind, body, or spirit.