

Blessed are your children, God.  
Blessed are those who feel boxed in.  
**Blessed are those who feel shackled by tradition.**  
**Blessed are those who are suffocated by the roars of expectation.**

Blessed are your children, God.  
Blessed are the chosen families.  
**Blessed are those who see us for who we are in all our glory.**  
**Blessed are those who have helped rewrite the stories of lives.**

Blessed are your children, God.  
Blessed are those whose ancestral queer footsteps we walk in.  
**Blessed are those who marched and marched and marched before us.**  
**Blessed are those who have dared to dream and dared to demand justice.**

Blessed are your children, God. Every single one of them. And blessed are we as we co-create with you a world where all people know and feel and have love. All sexualities, all genders, all gender expressions. All families. All bodies.

**Holy One, guide us toward your strange, boundless, undefinable love. And when we are met with the sneers, side-eye, and shame of the world, remind us who walks this journey with us. You: the One who has shattered every norm, every box, every shackle that holds us down and calls us to do the same. Amen.**

↑**Passing the Peace** Carmen Fried  
One: Passing of the Peace reminds us that peace is an ongoing project of God's work among us. Take a moment and pass the peace to young and old, known and unknown, neighbor and friend. 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** Community

### **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. Children K-5 will then depart for Godly Play next door.*

**Choral Anthem** "Grace" Mark Hayes  
Mount Hollywood Choir

**Reading:** Mark 3:20-35 Carmen Fried  
Then he went home, and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin"— for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

**Reflection** Rev. Ashley

↑**Song of Response** x2 *Spirit of the Living God*  
*Spirit of the Living God, Rise anew in us. Spirit of the living God, Rise anew in us.*  
*Melt us, Mold us, Fill us, Use us. Spirit of the Living God Rise anew in us.*

### **We Pray**

**Sharing Our Joys, Concerns and Discoveries** Rev. Ashley

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)  
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.



# MOUNT HOLLYWOOD

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
**June 9, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.**

### We Give

**Words that Inspire us to Give** Carmen Fried

**Offertory Solo** "Come Jesus Come" Stephen McWhirter  
Autumn Lawrence, soloist

**Prayer of Dedication (unison)** Carmen Fried  
Bless our gathered offerings to the beings and places where resources are needed. Bless the work of our hands and our hearts. Amen.

### We Are Sent

↑ **Sending Hymn** see insert, vs. 1-2, 5-6 For Everyone Born

↑ **Closing Blessing** Rev. Ashley

**Postlude** Joe Lawrence

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

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↑ Please stand in mind, body, or spirit

### We Gather in Community

**Welcoming Music** Joe Lawrence

**Welcome & Announcements** Rev. Ashley

**Ringing of the Bell** Young Person

↑ **Gathering Hymn** #471 What a Covenant

↑ **A Gathering Litany for Pride Month** (all in bold) Carmen Fried  
Written by Rev. Sam Lundquist, Saint John's San Francisco, adapted,

Blessed are your children, God.  
Blessed are the sacred "weird" ones.  
**Blessed are the holy and wholly unique.**  
**Blessed are the ones who are "too loud", "too wild," "too much."**

Blessed are your children, God.  
Blessed are your gay, lesbian, and bisexual children.  
**Blessed are your trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming children.**  
**Blessed are your children who we are still learning to name and know.**

Blessed are your children, God.  
Blessed are those who have come out.  
Blessed are those who cannot.  
**Blessed are those who are still finding their way and those who strain each day just to survive, but are here.**