



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!

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Homecoming Sunday
September 8, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

We Gather in Community

Gathering Music

Joe Lawrence

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Ashley

Ringing of the Bell

Young Person

↑Call to Worship

Clay Widdifield

One: The earth was made for flourishing. Life longs to bloom and blossom. Created in God's image, born of Love itself.

All: We each have a role, we each play a part in service to each other and all our creaturely kin.

One: We trust in our offerings. We nurture each other.

All: We take hope in our collective potential.

One: May the Creator of Life come and thrive among us.

↑**Hymn**

#459

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

↑**Gathering Unison Prayer**

Clay Widdifield

Beloved One, in times of uncertainty and change, you are the ground that steadies us. When life feels stable or secure, the knowledge of your abiding presence is our strength and our comfort. Remind us, O God, that we need not look far for you. As close as our breath, our neighbor, and every creaturely thing - you reach for us. Thanks be to you. Amen.

↑**Passing the Peace**

Clay Widdifield

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.

Birthday Blessing

Choral Anthem

"Family of Grace"
Mount Hollywood Choir

Larry Shackley

We Share the Word

Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-10

Clay Widdifield

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose, and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiyah, and Maaseiah on his right hand and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Also the

↑Please rise in mind, body, or spirit.

Levites Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Time with our 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.

Centering Music Joe Lawrence

Reflection "Roots to Bloom" Rev. Ashley

Hymn #499 In All Our Living

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 Clay Widdifield
You can also find our QR code to give online on the back of the program

Offertory "People Get Ready" Curtis Mayfield
Rada Jovicic and David Weinreb, soloists

Unison Prayer of Dedication Clay Widdifield
Holy One, receive our offerings for the nurture and expansion of your kingdom. May they be magnified and the spirit of generosity among your people amplified so that all may flourish. Amen.

↑Please rise in mind, body, or spirit.

We Break Bread Together and Are Sent

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*

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Ashley

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

Remembering the Story Sharing the Elements

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

↑Sending Hymn

#423

Great is Your Faithfulness

↑Sending Forth

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 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.

You are warmly invited to join us for a potluck in our courtyard after the service!

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

Mount Hollywood United Church of Christ * 1733 N. New Hampshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90027 * 323-300-4066 * www.mounthollywood.org

↑Please rise in mind, body, or spirit.

