



He is Risen, by Michael Torevell



MOUNT HOLLYWOOD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Easter Sunday Celebration
April 5, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Mount Hollywood United Church of Christ! We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace Church. Please be in this space in the ways that feel good for you. Gender neutral restrooms are located off the courtyard, and a changing table for infants is located in the restroom in the main building.

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, we are so glad you are worshiping with us today. Welcome home!

We Gather in Community

Prelude

“A Ringing Alleluia!”
Mount Hollywood Choir

Lawrence Josephs

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Ashley

Ringing of the Bell

Young People

↑**Hymn**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today
(vs. 2 & 3 by Jim Burklo)

Christ the Lord is Risen today, Alleluia
Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia
Sing glad heavens, earth reply: Alleluia

At the dawn new life surprises, Alleluia
From the shadows light arises, Alleluia
See the stone is rolled away, Alleluia
On this resurrection day, Alleluia

Reap in joy what's sown with tears, Alleluia
Courage springs from all our fears, Alleluia
Stand in wonder at the sight, Alleluia
Sunrise overtakes the night, Alleluia

↑**Responsive Gathering Prayer** *Macrina Wiederkehr, adapted* Juan Sánchez

One: When dawn stands still with wonder, when birds jubilate in the trees, when buds hurry into blossoms,

All: We always know that Easter wants to come again!

One: When Jesus asks us to roll away the stone that locks him in,

All: then Easter wants to come again!

One: So, let it come. It's one dawn past rising time and Resurrection is the wildest news that's ever touched this upside-down world.

All: It says, yes!

One: when everything else says, no!

All: It says, up!

One: when everything else says, down!

All: It says, live!

One: when everything else says, die!

Easter's standing at your door again. Don't you see that stone has got to go? That stone and all the other stones we use to keep Jesus in the tomb. So here's to rolling stones away to give Jesus the chance he needs to rise and touch a troubled, lonely world. It's wild with wonder, it's beautiful and real intent on throwing life around. Some call it Resurrection. Yes, Easter, you can come. An angel of life we'll be.

All We'll roll the stone away and set you free.

One: May it be so!

All: May it be so for all of us. Amen.

↑**Passing the Peace**

Juan Sánchez

One: On this day of rejoicing and every day forward, 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 Christ's liberative, justice-seeking peace with one another.

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 ages K-5th grade are then invited to Godly Play next door.

Reading

"spring song"
by Lucille Clifton

Juan Sánchez

the green of Jesus
is breaking the ground
and the sweet
smell of delicious Jesus
is opening the house and
the dance of Jesus music
has hold of the air and
the world is turning
in the body of Jesus and
the future is possible

Choral Anthem

"Alleluia, He Lives!"
Mount Hollywood Choir

Joel Ranney

Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

Juan Sánchez

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Reflection

“He is Not Here”

Rev. Ashley

↑**Responsive Hymn**

#433

In the Bulb There is a Flower

We Pray & 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 Generosity

We are grateful for your gifts of time, talent and treasure to help co-create God's kin-dom here on earth. If you would like to give monetarily via PalPal, please scan the QR code.



Juan Sánchez

Offertory

“When You Believe”

Stephen Schwartz

Autumn Lawrence & Julia Timmons, soloists

Unison Prayer of Dedication *enfleshed, adapted*

Juan Sánchez

God of Mary Magdalene and Mary Mother of Jesus and all the Marys known and unknown, thank you for these women who showed up even in their heartbreak. We dedicate our collected resources to this holy cherishing. Amen.

We Are Sent

↑**Sending Hymn**

vs. 4

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

*Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia*

↑**Sending Forth**

Rev. Ashley

One: Go forth to live boldly, as if death has no power over you. Live as if your life counts for something – because it does. Go in peace to love and serve and proclaim:

That Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Postlude

“Vivace” from Sonata in F Major
Mount Hollywood Trio

Georg Phillip Telemann

You are invited for coffee and treats after the service in our courtyard! We will also have an egg hunt for kids in our garden. Please meet in the courtyard after worship and we will walk over together.

Guest Musicians

Cari Ann Souter, flute

Kelly Tate, trumpet

Trevor Jarvis, cello

Upcoming Sundays and Community Events:

Sunday, April 12th at 10:30 am

Creation Sunday at Mount Hollywood with Guest Reflector Steven Appleton of LA River
Kayak Safari

Sunday, April 26th at 10:30 am

Godspell Worship at Mount Hollywood.

Friday, May 1st at 11 am

Trip with the Explorers to MONUMENTS Exhibit at MOCA in Little Tokyo
Following the mass shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC and alongside Bree Newsome's powerful removal of the Confederate flag at the South Carolina Statehouse, the United States witnessed the decommissioning of nearly 200 monuments. This exhibition reflects on the histories and legacies of post-Civil War America, bringing together a selection of decommissioned monuments, with contemporary artworks borrowed and newly created by Black artists.
For more information, please contact Greg at gregdc59@aol.com.



This Easter morning we join Christians across the globe by lighting a red candle for peace and justice in Palestine. We stand in solidarity with those who suffer and proclaim that death and violence will not have the final word.

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

Our Easter flowers and plants today were given to remember loved ones and to celebrate and honor God's blessings in our lives!

Christopher C. in memory of **Louise & Carl Carlson**

Donna Young in memory of **my angel cats** who have have crossed the bridge and in celebration of **all of my cats, angels on earth**

Juan Sánchez in memory of **mis abuelos, Petra y Susano**

Juli Otis in memory of **my parents and my sisters**

Mount Hollywood UCC in celebration of **Joe Lawrence's 30 years of beautiful music** at Mount Hollywood!

Susan & Milton in memory of **Milton's dad Hector, Susan's Grandparents, & Kathy.**

The Smith-Reynolds Family with hope for **universal peace.**

And to all those on our hearts today.

*Many thanks to those who brought flowers for the cross and for our altar.
The plants will be planted in our garden over the next few weeks.*



Mount Hollywood United Church of Christ
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www.mounthollywood.org

↑Please rise in mind, body, or spirit.