



MOUNT HOLLYWOOD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Joint Service of Celebration Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 12, 2026 at 10:15 a.m.



Welcome To Worship

Welcome—we're so glad you're here! Take a breath, settle in, and be in this space in the ways that feel good for you. It is our joy to welcome this morning The Peppermint Ridge Rejoicers Choir!

Children: Young beloveds enrich our worship experience. There is a special rug in the front left just for them, with toys and coloring materials. Jesus said, let the little children come to me!

Communion: All are welcome to God's open table. Both wine and grape juice, and gluten-free bread are offered at the table.

Restrooms: A gender neutral ADA restroom is located around the corner in the main hallway, as well as a changing table for infants.

Please join us after the service for fellowship and refreshments on the patio and in Hoick Hall!

We Gather in Community

*The rainbow candelabra on the altar serves as a reminder of this community's inclusive and intentional welcome to the **LGBTQIA+** community.*

PRELUDE

Michael Anderson

WELCOME

Ted Goulet & Rev. Ashley Hiestand

†GATHERING HYMN

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



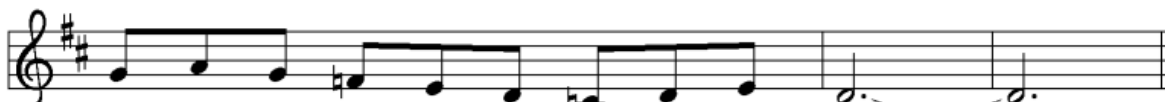
brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

†GATHERING RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Ted Goulet

One: Let us prepare our hearts for God's holy work

All: Let us ready ourselves for Divine disruption

One: As the earth longs to flourish and the people dream of rest

All: God has promised to show us the way

One: Setting down our egos, taking up our faith

All: We seek the seeds of transformation. Wisdom is here, alive and among us. Let us receive her truth. *enfleshed*

†GREETING

Ted Goulet

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

UNISON PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION

Juan Sánchez

God of Delight,

We confess that we have grown numb to the beauty of this world. We have not protected what is good and true and enchanting. We have forgotten how to marvel at the mundane with the same gravity as we would behold the mountain or valley. We have not looked up to witness the miracle of our architecture. And in our self-hatred, we have failed to delight in and honor the faces we pass each day, including our own. Forgive us our inattention, and in your mercy remind us that we are so much more than our pain. Guide our gaze toward the beautiful. Amen. *Black Liturgies*

WORDS OF GRACE

Juan Sánchez

Let your soul receive this rest: The same God who makes the death of the tree burst with color can draw us into wonder even in the midst of tragedy. May the divine have mercy on our inattention, that we could grieve what should not be and delight in all that survives us. *Black Liturgies*

Amen

CHORAL ANTHEM

The Peppermint Ridge Rejoicers

"Amazing Grace"

We Share the Word

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Rev. Ashley Hiestand

All are invited to come forward and sit in the front if they feel led

†GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Ted Goulet

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they

were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!”

“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

REFLECTION

Rev. Ashley Hiestand

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Be Love

Musical notation for the song "Be Love". The melody is written on a single staff in 2/2 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Let our minds be love, Our hands be love, Our hearts be love, Be love." The notation includes various chords: A/C# and Dm for the first line, and G/B and C for the second line. The third line has F/A and Bb, and the fourth line has C/E and F. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final double bar line at the end.

We Pray & We Give

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ashley Hiestand & Ted Goulet

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

We pray for your church. Embolden denominations and faith-based organizations in creative and collaborative ministries and increase our work for the sake of the gospel. Abiding Spirit, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth. Protect waterways and those who fight to protect them from human pollution and animal habitats from destruction. Guide us in careful stewardship of waters, plant life, and animals.

Creator, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our world and it's people who are crying out. Instill in every leader's heart a desire for justice, peace and true liberation. Support the work of collaborations that seek joy, safety, freedom and dignity for all people and land back.

She Who Speaks Life, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who are undermined or oppressed. Amplify the voices of those we don't hear or don't listen to and quiet those who glorify white supremacy. Break open cruel systems of injustice. Bring about your righteousness and fill us all with your redeeming spirit.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our communities. Guide us to fresh, bold ideas that disrupt the status quo. Give our communities a spirit of discipleship and service.

Great Mystery, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have passed into your arms of Love. Console us who mourn and comfort us with the beautiful promise of life in your kingdom.

Compassion, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

For what else shall we pray for today?

We invite prayers from the congregation to be shared.

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you in the quiet places of our heart.

Amen.

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

Ted Goulet

One: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the sign of peace with one another.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Phyllis Lundine

Offering trays will be passed around during this time. If you would like your gift to go to a specific community or ministry, please list the name on the envelopes provided in the pews. The remaining monies will be divided between our two communities.

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Peppermint Ridge Rejoicers

"Kum Bah Yah"

"Lead With Love"

UNISON OFFERING PRAYER

Phyllis Lundine

Creator of all that has been, is, and will be. Thank you for the capacity and the privilege of giving. May these gifts be used for the collective transformation and liberation of our world and your people. Amen.

We Break Bread Together & Are Sent

This is an open table. No matter where you are on Life's Journey, you are welcome! After the Invitation to the Table, you are invited to come up to the altar rail to receive communion. We will also bring communion elements to the pews.

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

Rev. Ashley Hiestand

OUR COMMON PRAYER *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 TABLE

Come to the banquet for all is now ready

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION SONG "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees.

[Refrain]

Let us praise God together on our knees; let us praise God together on our knees.

[Refrain]

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Ted Goulet

Faithful God, who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives, as we offer these gifts, we remember Your sustaining presence. 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.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Rev. Ashley Hiestand

The Lord bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

May the Holy Spirit look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Go in peace, Christ is with you today and all days!

Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Michael Anderson

In Today's Service:

Minister: Rev. Ashley Hiestand, Mount Hollywood UCC

Assistant Minister: Ted Goulet, Hollywood Lutheran

Presiders: Juan Sánchez, Mount Hollywood UCC & Phyllis Lundine, Hollywood Lutheran

Organist: Michael Anderson

Choir: The Peppermint Ridge Rejoicers

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



reach-ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

†You are welcome to rise in mind, body, or spirit as you feel led.