



GLENDAL CITY CHURCH

of Seventh-day Adventists



July 5, 2025

A Service of Lessons & Carols
for Independence Day

WELCOME

We're Glad You're Here



TODAY AT GLENDALE CITY CHURCH

- 9:00AM (*Fellowship Hall*) - Come & enjoy a light breakfast with us at our Courtyard Café!
- 9:30AM (*Fellowship Hall*) - Grace Sabbath School class with Rebecca Barceló both in-person and on Zoom.*
(*Meeting ID 818-244-7241).
- 9:30AM (*Council Room*) - The Living Project support group meets weekly: "Telling My Story, Listening to Your Story. Living Our Story."
- 11:00AM (*Sanctuary*) - Worship with Elizabeth Johnston Taylor. The service can be viewed online at:
www.youtube.com/glendalecitychurch.
- 12:10PM (*Downstairs Multipurpose Room*) - Open Table Worship is an informal gathering of seekers. All are welcome as we share food, story-telling, and interpersonal connections.

CITY KIDS PROGRAMMING:

(12pm Pickup)

- 11:00AM (*Classroom 2*) - City Kids Children's Praise with music!
- 11:15AM (*Classroom 2*) - Tiny Tots (0-4 y.o.) Attend with guardian.
- 11:15AM (*Classroom 1*) - Children's Sabbath School (5-12 y.o.)

PREPARING

today I will rebuild
this time no quick fixes no steel cables
or wooden planks
no rust no rot
no nails necessary
but rather the slow growth of twisted roots
from ancient trees
the way across a path
made of grandfather
grandmother stones
I will become a self-sustaining structure
gain strength over time
a living root bridge that lasts five hundred years

From "Reconciliation" by Jónína Kirton

WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude

“Grand Choeur”
by Theodore Dubois

Kemp Smeal

Movement One

Call to Worship

Uriel Herinirina

I will extol you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

One generation shall commend your works to another and declare your mighty acts.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Let all bless God’s holy name forever and ever.

Opening Hymn

By Daniel C. Roberts

“God of the Ages”
Melody of *National Hymn*

God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
thy true religion in our hearts increase;
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Prayer of the People

Rebecca Barceló

O Lord our God, We give you thanks that we are free to worship you—in the safety of our homes, in the gathering of your church, and even in the digital spaces that connect us. We are grateful for our community of faith, for friends who journey with us — blessings we too often take for granted.

And yet, we remember the many who do not share this freedom— those who face danger, discrimination, or silence because of their ethnicity, geographical location or faith. Strengthen them, O God. Surround them with courage and hope in the midst of their struggle towards freedom.

We also turn our eyes inward, Lord, and reflect on ourselves. While we celebrate liberty, we confess that we do not always protect it for others. Open our eyes to the ways—both intentional and unintentional—that we hinder the very freedom we proclaim. Help us to be guardians of liberty not only for ourselves but for all your children.

Creator God, We long for the day when your vision of justice and peace becomes our shared reality— when all people everywhere will live together in spirit, in freedom, and in love.

Strengthen our hearts, O God.

Renew us with the liberating knowledge that true freedom comes from Christ— for he has conquered sin and set us free.

Thanks be to God!

O Lord our God, our ruler, bless the leaders of this land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the nations of the earth.

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and all who hold administrative authority— grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and to all who make laws in States, Cities, and Towns— grant courage, wisdom, and foresight to meet the needs of all people and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Judges and officers of our Courts—grant understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice truly served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach us, your people, to rely not on our own strength but on yours, and to accept our responsibility toward one another— that we may elect trustworthy leaders, make wise decisions for the good of all, and serve you faithfully in our time, bringing honor to your holy Name.

For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Movement Two

A Reading From the Preamble to the Constitution

Ruth Counts

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

A Reading from Frederick Douglass's "Fourth of July" Speech (1852)

Kris Wahagheghe

Citizens, your fathers Made good that resolution. They succeeded; and today you reap the fruits of their success. The freedom gained is yours; and you, therefore, may properly celebrate this anniversary. The 4th of July is the first great fact in your nation's history—the very ring-bolt in the chain of your yet undeveloped destiny.

Pride and patriotism, not less than gratitude, prompt you to celebrate and to hold it in perpetual remembrance. I have said that the Declaration of Independence is the ringbolt to the chain of your nation's destiny; so, indeed, I regard it. The principles contained in that instrument are saving principles. Stand by those principles, be true to them on all occasions, in all places, against all foes, and at whatever cost.

Prayer of Response

Uriel Herinirina

We pray for our nation: Almighty God, giver of all good things, we thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. It restore us, though we often destroy it.
Lord, Heal us.

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we exploit them.
Christ, Forgive us.

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, though we often fall short of them.
Spirit, Inspire us.

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light.
Christ, Enlighten us.

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again.
Spirit, Renew us.

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to bring about a just society. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name. **Amen.**

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORSHIP SERVICE

Worship in Song

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”
by Carl F. Mueller

Ben Lin
Bass

Movement Three

**A Reading from the “Letter From Birmingham Jail,
Martin Luther King Jr., April 16, 1963**

Mark Azali

I am in Birmingham because injustice is here.... I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly....We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed...

I must honestly reiterate that I have been disappointed with the church. I do not say this as one of those negative critics who can always find something wrong with the church. I say this as a minister of the gospel, who loves the church; who was nurtured in its bosom; who has been sustained by its spiritual blessings and who will remain true to it as long as the cord of life shall lengthen... In the midst of a mighty struggle to rid our nation of racial and economic injustice, I have heard many ministers say: “Those are social issues, with which the gospel has no real concern.” And I have watched many churches commit themselves to a completely other worldly religion which makes a strange, un-Biblical distinction between body and soul, between the sacred and the secular...

I hope the church as a whole will meet the challenge of this decisive hour. But even if the church does not come to the aid of justice, I have no despair about the future... We will win our freedom because the sacred heritage of our nation and the eternal will of God are embodied in our echoing demands...

Yours for the cause of Peace and Brotherhood, Martin Luther King, Jr.

WORSHIP SERVICE

A Reading from Amos 5

Myron Counts

Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them.
Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.
But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Hymn of Response

“God of Grace and God of Glory”
Verses 1, 3 & 4 Only

Hymn Number 607

Movement Four

A Reading from Ephesians 1:4-5, 8; 2:14-19; 3:6

Doug Schultz

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—that he lavished on us.

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household.

This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Homily

“E pluribus unum”

Elizabeth
Johnston Taylor

Offertory

“Give Me Jesus”
arr. Mark Hayes

Ben Lin
Bass

WORSHIP SERVICE

Closing Hymn

“For This Land In All Its Wonder”

Melody of: *CWM Rhondda*

By Carolyn
Winfrey Gillette

For this land in all its wonder, for each city, farm and town,
For each mountain filled with splendor, for each place where love is found,
For the freedoms we enjoy here,
God, may thanks to you abound! God, may thanks to you abound!

For your peace and love unending, breaking barriers that divide;
For the joy of cultures blending as we live here side by side;
God, we thank you and we pray now:
May we all be unified! May we all be unified!

For your hand to lead and guide us, for your work in history,
For your vision born inside us of a just society,
God, we thank you and we pray now:
May this vision come to be! May this vision come to be!

May we be a nation seeking ways that are both wise and fair,
May our living and our speaking serve your purpose everywhere.
May we follow where you lead us;
God, this is our hope and prayer! God, this is our hope and prayer!

Benediction

Elizabeth Johnston Taylor

Postlude

“The Solid Rock”
arr. Kemp L Smeal

Kemp Smeal



The Hill We Climb

By American Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman

When day comes we ask ourselves, where can
we find light in this never-ending shade?
The loss we carry, a sea we must wade.
We've braved the belly of the beast.
We've learned that quiet isn't always peace,
and the norms and notions of what just is
isn't always justice.

And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it.
Somehow we do it.
Somehow we've weathered and witnessed
a nation that isn't broken but simply unfinished.
We, the successors of a country and a time
where a skinny Black girl,
descended from slaves and raised
by a single mother,
can dream of becoming president—
only to find herself reciting for one.

And yes, we are far from polished and pristine,
but that doesn't mean we are
striving to form a union that is perfect.
We are striving to forge a union with purpose.
To compose a country committed
to all cultures, colors, characters,
and conditions of man.
And so we lift our gazes
not to what stands between us,
but what stands before us.
We close the divide because we know:
to put our future first,
we must first put our differences aside.
We lay down our arms
so we can reach out our arms
to one another.
We seek harm to none and harmony for all.

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:
That even as we grieved, we grew.
That even as we hurt, we hoped.
That even as we tired, we tried.
That we'll forever be tied together—victorious.
Not because we will never again know defeat,
but because we will never again sow division.

Scripture tells us to envision
that everyone shall sit under
their own vine and fig tree
and no one shall make them afraid.
If we're to live up to our own time,
then victory won't lie in the blade,
but in all the bridges we've made.
That is the promise to glade,
the hill we climb—if only we dare.
It's because being American is more than
a pride we inherit—
it's the past we step into
and how we repair it.
We've seen a force that would shatter our nation
rather than share it,
would destroy our country
if it meant delaying democracy.
And this effort very nearly succeeded.
But while democracy can be periodically delayed,
it can never be permanently defeated.

In this truth,
in this faith we trust.
For while we have our eyes on the future,
history has its eyes on us.
This is the era of just redemption.
We feared at its inception.
We did not feel prepared
to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour.

But within it we found the power
to author a new chapter,
to offer hope and laughter to ourselves.
So while once we asked,
how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe?
Now we assert:
How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?

We will not march back to what was,
but move to what shall be—
a country that is bruised but whole,
benevolent but bold,
fierce and free.
We will not be turned around
or interrupted by intimidation,
because we know our inaction and inertia
will be the inheritance of the next generation.
Our blunders become their burdens.

But one thing is certain:
If we merge mercy with might,
and might with right,
then love becomes our legacy
and change, our children's birthright.

So let us leave behind a country
better than the one we were left with.
Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest,
we will raise this wounded world
into a wondrous one.

We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the west,
we will rise from the windswept northeast
where our forefathers first realized revolution.
We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities
of the midwestern states,
we will rise from the sunbaked South.
We will rebuild, reconcile and recover.

And every known nook of our nation,
and every corner called our country—
our people diverse and beautiful—will emerge,
battered and beautiful.

When day comes, we step out of the shade,
afame and unafraid.
The new dawn blooms as we free it.
For there is always light—
if only we're brave enough to see it,
if only we're brave enough to be it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 12 - Upcoming Church Picnic Social! Join us after church on July 12th for a fun and relaxing picnic at Lower Scholl Canyon Park! We'll be firing up the park barbecues for veggie burgers and tasty sides. All you need to bring is yourself—everything else is on us! Hope to see you there!



July 19 - Communion Service: We invite you to join us for our next Communion service on Sabbath, July 19th. Foot washing will be available in the Fellowship Hall for those who would like to participate. If you or someone you know is homebound and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact the pastoral office so that we can bring it to you.

Volunteers Needed: Every Sunday, we partner with Bristol Farms to rescue surplus food and share it with members of our community and help those in need. We're looking for a few extra hands to help with pickup and delivery to the church kitchen between 9:30–10:30am. As a thank you, you're **welcome to take home groceries for free**. If you're interested in helping out, please email Pastor Rebecca at rebecca@glendalecitychurch.org. Thank you!

July 27 - Church Workbee: Come out on a Sunday evening to help give our church building a little extra TLC! We'll start with a complimentary dinner from 5–6pm, and then roll up our sleeves from 6–8pm for some light gardening, cleaning, and organizing projects. Thank you for coming out to help us keep our church well-cared for and organized!



STAY CONNECTED

PREACHING SCHEDULE

July 12:
Rebecca Barceló

July 19:
Uriel Herinirina



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see upcoming events & more!**



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Instagram and YouTube!**

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“REVEALING CHRIST, AFFIRMING ALL”
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