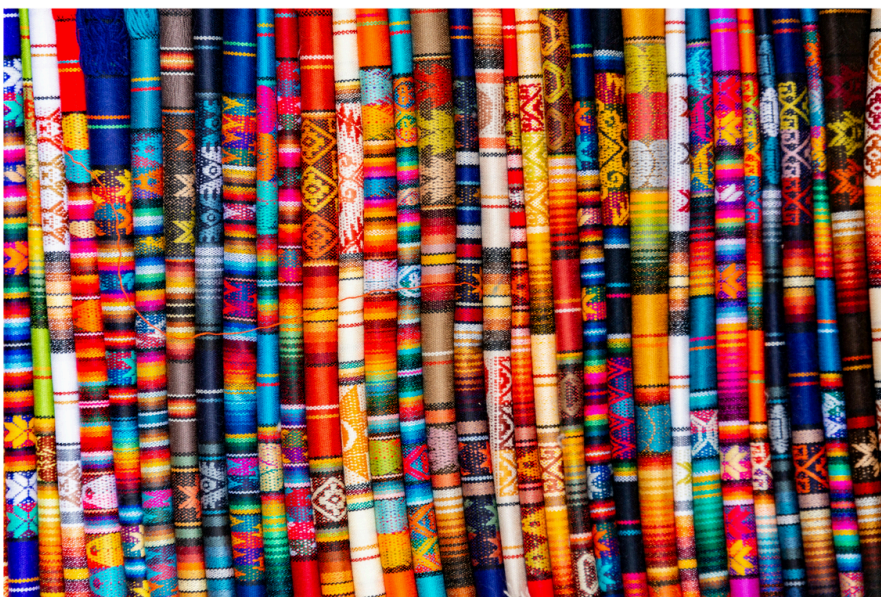




GLENDALE CITY CHURCH  
of Seventh-day Adventists



*Hold Fast: Reflections on Hope*  
(Week 3)

September 20, 2025

# 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 speaker Rebecca Barceló. The service can be viewed online at:  
[www.youtube.com/glendalecitychurch](http://www.youtube.com/glendalecitychurch).
- 12:10PM (*Multipurpose Room-Downstairs*) - Open Table Worship will join with the potluck today in the Fellowship Hall.

## 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

They have threatened us with Resurrection  
There is something here within us  
which doesn't let us sleep, which doesn't let us rest,  
which doesn't stop the pounding deep inside.  
It is the silent, warm weeping of women without their husbands  
it is the sad gaze of children fixed there beyond memory.

What keeps us from sleeping  
is that they have threatened us with resurrection!  
Because at each nightfall  
though exhausted from the endless inventory  
of killings for years,  
we continue to love life,  
and do not accept their death!  
In this marathon of hope  
there are always others to relieve us  
in bearing the courage necessary.

Accompany us then on this vigil  
and you will know what it is to dream!  
You will know then how marvelous it is  
to live threatened with resurrection!  
To live while dying  
and to already know oneself resurrected.

*Julia Esquivel Velásquez | Guatemalan poet,  
theologian and human rights activist*

# WORSHIP SERVICE

*Prelude*

**Sonata I - Allegro moderato e serio**  
Felix Mendelssohn

Kemp Smeal

*Call to Worship*

Rebecca Barceló

Do not be afraid, for I am with you; stop being anxious and watchful, for I am your God. I give you strength, I bring you help, I uphold you with my victorious right hand.

**The eye of Yahweh is on those who fear him, on those who rely on his love, to rescue their souls from death and keep them alive in famine.**

It is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory.

**But that is not all we can boast about; we can boast about our sufferings. These sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope...**

...and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

**May the God of hope bring you such joy and peace in your faith that the power of the Holy Spirit will remove all bounds to hope.**

-Adventist Hymnal Scripture Reading No. 796.

*Hymn of Praise*

**Children of the Heavenly Father**

No. 101

*Greetings & Prayer of the People*

Glenda Mendizabal

*Anthem*

**God, Be in My Head**  
Carlos Cordero

GCC Choir

# WORSHIP SERVICE

*Scripture Reading*

**Lamentations 3:21-24**

Tom Chatt

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. *"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*

**Hebrews 6:10, 11**

For God is not unjust; he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. And may each one of you *show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the very end.*

*Anthem*

**Vencerá El Amor (Love Shall Overcome)**

*GCC Choir*

Carlos Colón

*Sermon*

**Hope in Practice**

Rebecca Barceló

*Hymn of Response*

**Come, Ye Disconsolate**

No. 477

*Offering Call*

Doug Schultz

*Offertory*

**We Sing to Him**  
by Henry Purcell

Ben Lin

*Benediction*

Rebecca Barceló

*Choral Benediction*

GCC Choir

*Postlude*

**Sonata I- Allegro assai vivace**  
Felix Mendelssohn

Kemp Smeal

# GETTING ACQUAINTED



**Sam Guerrero**

For 9 years, Sam Guerrero has enjoyed fellowshiping at Glendale City Church. Those attending Grace Sabbath School have often been blessed by his contributions. Recently, Sam reflected on how prison life deepened his spiritual walk. (Indeed, a monk's cloister is not unlike a prison cell.) Since not everyone has such an intriguing life story, it seems fitting to get better acquainted with our brother in Christ.

Sam grew up in the Philippines—first in Ilocos Norte, then at Northern Luzon Academy, Mountain View College, and Philippine Union College near Manila. Though he began pre-med, he graduated with a pre-law degree. During martial law under President Marcos, Sam was imprisoned for his involvement with the College Editors Guild of the Philippines, which had been labeled subversive. After an arduous release process, he was admitted to the College of Law in Manila.

In 1980, Sam immigrated to the U.S., joined the Navy, and served aboard ships in Hawaii and Japan. Following an honorable discharge, he worked in a variety of roles with law enforcement and federal agencies, including the LAPD, LA County Sheriff, the DA's Office, DOJ/INS, and CBP. His final position was as an immigration officer with Citizenship & Immigration Services. A lapse in judgment led to arrest, but instead of denial, Sam chose to seek clemency. Prison this time was different: he served in a camp, worked as a librarian, and studied at Bible College, eventually earning a BA in Pastoral Ministry.

Sam is married to Thelma Tordecilla, an RN at Kaiser Sunset who works night shifts. He has a daughter, Jochebed, and two sons, Jordan and Nile. His hobbies include reading theology and biographies, cooking, and gardening.

Thank you, Sam, for sharing how God has blessed you through hard times. May you continue to grow in your knowledge of Him and share that blessing with us!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Potluck Today:** Following our church service, everyone is warmly invited to join us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall! This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends, catch up with familiar faces, and enjoy a shared meal together.

## City Church Lecture Series – Fall Event

Join us Saturday, October 4, for lunch fresh-off-the-grill in the courtyard after church. Then, after lunch, don't miss our fall lecture featuring theologian Moses Estrada on how "Language Constitutes Personal Identity and Orientation," weaving together theological insights and the thoughts of language philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein.



**City Church**  
Lecture Series



Glendale City Church proudly celebrates **Hispanic Heritage Month**, observed annually from September 15 until October 15. This month honors the histories, cultures, and contributions of people whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. We applaud the significant contributions of Hispanic and Latino people in fields such as agriculture, construction, healthcare, education, and public service, and we stand in solidarity with those who face harassment, violence, and unjust deportation.

## Walk with us for the Crop Hunger Walk! (October 26):

GCC is creating a walking team that will take steps to raise funds together in order to provide meals for those in our own community who need them - and support programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world. If you'd like to join us, please provide your name and your T-shirt size by scanning the adjacent QR Code here:



# STAY CONNECTED

## PREACHING SCHEDULE

September 27:  
Uriel Herinirina

October 4:  
Moses Estrada



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see upcoming events & more!**



**Follow us on Facebook,  
Instagram and YouTube!**

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## CHURCH OFFICE

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**“REVEALING CHRIST, AFFIRMING ALL”**  
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