

Order of Worship

July 28, 2024

Knox Presbyterian Church of LA

“Peace”

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Words to Ponder: “As peacemakers, we must resist resolutely all the powers of war and destruction and proclaim that peace is the divine gift offered to all who affirm life.”

(Henri Nouwen)

GATHERING MUSIC

“It’s Me, It’s Me. O Lord”

Mississippi Children’s Choir

WORDS OF WELCOME | PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Ann Hayman

CALL TO WORSHIP

Matt Falaye Gwinn

All your works shall give thanks to you, O God,

and all your faithful shall bless you.

The Holy One upholds all who are falling

and raises up all who are bowed down.

You open your hand,

satisfying the desire of every living thing.

God is just and kind,

God is near to all who call on God.

A LITANY FOR THE VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Matt Falaye Gwinn

As Christians, we follow a Savior known as the Prince of Peace. We believe in the power of love and non-violence as the way to bring change. We are called to turn swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. (Isaiah 2)

May righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. (Psalm 72)

However, as people of faith we are aware that at times we are tragically far from what God wills for us. Jesus would lament our willingness to turn to violence. (Luke 13)

Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10)

We recognize the deep capacity in each of us to act violently, in ways that can be unpredictable and hard to understand. Violence has a seductive nature—it pervades our movies. It creeps into our speech and our actions. We call for repentance and change.

We believe in the power of redemption and transformed lives. (II Cor. 5)

Welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

(James 1)

We grieve with victims of violence--the families of George Floyd, Michael Brown, Aiyana Jones, Trayvon Martin, Yvette Smith, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, the Charleston Nine, and so many others.

We continue to remember the families at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

We grieve with the parents whose children have been killed in our land.

We remember Butler, PA; Cleveland, Uvalde, Charleston, Staten Island, New Orleans, Chicago, Jackson, Baltimore and Los Angeles.

As people of faith, we “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”
(Romans 12)

Prejudice and racism are embedded in our society. We confess our complicity. We pray for the courage to have honest discussions and the steadfastness to work for change. We pray for courage in the struggle for justice and peace.

Unlike Cain, we acknowledge that we are our brothers’ and our sisters’ keepers! We lift our hands as we stand in solidarity today especially with the people of Ukraine, Gaza, and across this nation who in the words of Fannie Lou Hammer are “sick and tired of being sick and tired.” (from “Lifted Hands: An AME Litany” by Rev. Dr. Cassandra Gould)

“I became convinced that noncooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good.” (Dr. Martin Luther King)

This is our urgent calling as people of faith. We will turn swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. We will seek to dismantle racism in all its forms. Until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream!
(Amos 5)

OPENING HYMN

“Abide with Me”

PH #543

A UNISON PRAYER FOR PEACE

**Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is error, the truth;
Where there is doubt, the faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“NOPLACE4HATE”

Rev. Ann Hayman

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS Rev. Ann Hayman | Elder Robert Duitsman
New Members: Matthew Falaye Gwinn, Karen Herdman

ANTHEM “Give Me Jesus” Elder Dr. Hansonia Caldwell – Harriford

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Matt Falaye Gwinn

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 14 International Children’s Bible Matt Falaye Gwinn

SERMON “We Just Don’t Get It!” Rev. Ann Hayman
2 Samuel 11:1-15

WORDS OF FAITH (A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to bring peace and redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

PASTORAL PRAYER and the Lord’s Prayer Rev. Ann Hayman

THE OFFERING

Call to Giving Matt Falaye Gwinn
Offertory “Certainly Lord” Elder Dr. Hansonia Caldwell – Harriford
+Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below, praise God above all heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication Matt Falaye Gwinn

ANNOUNCEMENTS Matt Falaye Gwinn

CLOSING HYMN “O for a World” PH # 386

BENEDICTION Rev. Ann Hayman

Go forth and live as Christ in the world.
We will speak and live with integrity as we journey through this new week, knowing that God will satisfy our every need and lead us to peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE “I’ll Walk with God” Elder Dr. Hansonia Caldwell - Harriford