



FINDING GOD AT THE INTERSECTION OF OUR LIVES

July 6, 2024

### ON CAMPUS TODAY AT GLENDALE CITY CHURCH, JULY 6:

- 9:00 a.m.: **Courtyard Café.** Enjoy simple breakfast foods & beverages in our Fellowship Hall lobby.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Grace Sabbath School class** with Pastor Leif, both live in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom, meeting ID 818-244-7241. Join in our lively, two-book study: "Your God Is Too Small" (J. B. Phillips) and *Adventist Today's* book "Dear Aunt Sevvy"
- 9:30 a.m.: **The Living Project Support Group** meets weekly in the Council Room. "Telling my story. Listening to your story. Living our story."
  - 11:00 a.m.: **Sanctuary worship service** with Pastor Leif Lind, as we celebrate the freedom of religion in our country. Also available online, <https://YouTube.com/c/GlendaleCityChurch>. **Next Sabbath, July 13:** Worship service with Greg Nelson, followed by the **communion service**.
- 11:00 a.m.: **City Kids Children's Praise with Music**, Room 2.
- 11:15 a.m.: **Tiny Tots** (0-3 years old, together with a guardian) go to Classroom 2; **Godly Play** (4-12 years) go to Classroom 1. Noon pickup.

### OPEN TABLE WORSHIP:

- 12:15 p.m.: Informal worship gathering downstairs in the multipurpose room. All are welcome as we share with music, story-telling, and interpersonal connections!

### THIS WEEK AT GLENDALE CITY CHURCH:

- 7:00 p.m. **Social Jesus Heartgroup** by Herb Montgomery, each Wednesday at <https://Zoom.us/j/8182447241>, discussing Jesus' call to bringing justice and equality to all. Study guide or podcast: <https://RenewedHeartMinistries.com>.

# SATURDAY WORSHIP—11:00 A.M. (PLEASE SILENCE YOUR ELECTRONIC DEVICES)

We welcome you as you worship with us online today. Please feel free to contact any of our pastoral staff if you have a question, want a visit, or need help:

- <https://glendalecitychurch.org>
- <https://www.facebook.com/glendalecitychurch>
- 818-244-7241

## GLENDALE CITY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH July 6, 2024

### ★ *“A Service of Lessons & Hymns for Independence Day”* ★

**Prelude**

“Carillon”  
Kemp Smeal, organ

*Herbert Murrill*

**WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER**

Leif Lind



Hear the words of THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, signed on JULY 4, 1776: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” As Christians in America, we gather this day to thank God for the gifts of our freedom and liberty, to honor those whose vision, wisdom and sacrifice secured these “unalienable Rights” for us and every generation, and to confess that while we believe that all are created equal, we have not always allowed others to enjoy that freedom or those rights. We ask God’s forgiveness and call upon God’s unconditional love and mercy to grant that we may be given the strength and courage to live out our faith and beliefs more fully. Let us pray:

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 other 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 to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties

**Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our 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 give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

**Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

And finally, teach your people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

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



★ **Hymn**

“We Gather Together”

<sup>§</sup>Written 1625; Tune: KREMSER

(1) We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;  
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,  
Sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own.

(2) Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!

(3) We all do extol thee, thou Leader triumphant,  
And pray that thou still our Defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

<sup>§</sup>*This old Dutch folk song celebrates the freedom that the Netherlands gained at that time from its oppressors*

**Introduction:**

Doug Schultz

Today we continue what has become a tradition at our church, a celebration of American freedom. Freedom to believe. We hear readings from the Scripture and from history. We sing and hear music that celebrates our freedom as believers. Some may wonder why we do this in worship today: it is because we are citizens who believe that all are welcome and loved by God; because he created us free to obey, free to believe. As *Patriarchs and Prophets*

puts it, "God made our first parents free moral agents, capable of appreciating the wisdom and benevolence of his character and the justice of his requirements, and with full liberty to yield or to withhold obedience. God might have created us without the power to transgress; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automaton. Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced." Today we celebrate again that freedom — freedom to believe. Let us now remember our history, that our past may inform our future.

## **Worship in Song**

"The Deer's Cry"     *Shaun Davey; Irish trad., 8th century*  
Ciara Mashea, *soprano*

*I arise today: Through the strength of Heaven, light of sun, radiance of moon ... I arise today  
Through God's strength to pilot me, ... God's shield to protect me...  
Christ with me, Christ before me,...Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,...  
I arise today.*

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO "THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT", 1620**

Ken Webber

When, because of heavy storms in 1620 the "Mayflower" landed off-course in Massachusetts instead of Virginia, discord immediately arose among the colonists. The Pilgrims were seeking a land of religious freedom; whereas their fellow shipmates, the so-called "Strangers" (or non-Pilgrims) — including merchant traders, craftsmen, and adventurers — were often more interested in financial gain. These Strangers also felt that since they had not landed in Virginia, they were under no obligation to follow the laws of the Virginia Company contract that they had previously signed. Fearing insurrection or anarchy the Pilgrims drafted what would become known as "The Mayflower Compact", the first successful attempt to establish self-government and democracy in the nation that would eventually become the United States of America.



As U.S. President Coolidge said in 1920, "The compact which they signed was an event of the greatest importance. It was the foundation of liberty based on law and order, and that tradition has been steadily upheld. They drew up a form of government which has been designated as the first real constitution of modern times. It was democratic, an acknowledgment of liberty under law and order and the giving to each person the right to participate in the government, while they promised to be obedient to the laws."

## **TEXT OF "THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT", 1620:**

Beth Johnston Taylor

"In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord, King James, by the Grace of God, of England, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &. Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents, solemnly and mutually in the Presence

of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid; And by Virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the General good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In Witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, King James of England, France and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini, 1620."

### **Hymn of Response**

"Faith of Our Fathers"

Tune: ST. CATHERINE

(1) Faith of our fathers! living still, in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword,  
O how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word.  
Faith of our fathers! holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

(2) Faith of our mothers, Christian faith, is truth beyond our stumbling creeds,  
Still serve the home and save the Church, and breathe thy spirit through our deeds:  
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith! We will be true to thee till death.

### **A reading from Amos 5:**

Tom Chatt

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!

### **A reading from Micah 6:**

Leif Lind

With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

### **A READING FROM THE PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Ken Webber

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.



★ Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Harry E. Fosdick

1930, Tune: CWM RHONDDA

(1) God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;  
Now fulfill your church’s story, bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.

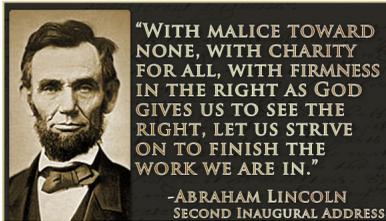
(2) Cure your children’s warring madness, bend our pride to your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in goods and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom’s goal.

(3) Set our feet on lofty places, gird our lives that they may be  
Armored with all Christ-like graces in the fight to set all free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, that we fail not man nor thee.

**A READING FROM LINCOLN’S 2ND INAUGURAL ADDRESS, 1865**

Beth Johnston Taylor

After four years of a bitter civil war that left deep and lasting wounds on the country,



Abraham Lincoln, in his second inaugural address, called for reconciliation and healing. In words that remain immortal he concluded his speech by saying: “With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan — to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting

peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.”

*Six weeks later he was assassinated.*

Hymn

“This Is My Song”

Lloyd Stone, Georgia Harkness;

1934, 1939; Tune: FINLANDIA

(1) This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for lands afar and mine;  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine:  
But other hearts in other lands are beating  
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

(2) My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean,  
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;  
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine:  
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

(3) May truth and freedom come to every nation;  
May peace abound where strife has raged so long;  
That each may seek to love and build together,  
A world united, righting every wrong;  
A world united in its love for freedom,  
Proclaiming peace together in one song.

**A READING FROM THE "LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL", MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., APRIL 16, 1963**

Doug Schultz

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.

Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct action campaign that was "well timed" in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never." We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that "justice too long delayed is justice denied..."

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...

If I have said anything in this letter that overstates the truth and indicates an unreasonable impatience, I beg you to forgive me. If I have said anything that understates the truth and indicates my having a patience that allows me to settle for anything less than brotherhood, I beg God to forgive me.

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

**Injustice anywhere is a threat  
to justice everywhere.**

Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Hymn

"Amazing Grace"

Tune: NEW BRITAIN

(1) Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

(2) 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

(3) When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.



## The Gospel according to Matthew 11

Margery Rich

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

## The Gospel according to Luke 4

Beth Johnston Taylor

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

## ★ Hymn of Response

"God of the Ages"

Tune: NATIONAL HYMN

(1) 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 your throne arise.

(2) Your love divine has led us in the past,  
In this free land by you our lot is cast;  
Be now our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,  
Your word our law, your paths our chosen way.

(3) From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
May your strong arm be now our sure defense;  
Your true religion in our hearts increase,  
Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

(4) Refresh your people on their toilsome way,  
Lead us from night to neverending day;  
Fill all our lives with wonder as we praise:  
All honor now before your throne we raise.

### **AN ONGOING CHALLENGE TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

Margery Rich

While great steps have been made in religious freedom in recent times, it has not all been encouraging. We cannot forget the worst attack on Jews in this country at the Tree of Life synagogue, where 11 people died. Religious hate crimes against Jews, Muslims and others have surged dramatically in recent years. Since persecution against Mormons and Catholics in previous centuries was justified by claims that they were "not legitimate religions", it is troubling to remember Pat Robertson's claim a few years ago that: "We have to recognize that Islam is **not a religion**. It is a worldwide **political movement** bent on domination of the world." Such language intends to strike fear and does nothing to foster James Madison's original vision of religious "freedom for all."

Disturbingly, the dividing line between church and state appears to be narrowing in recent years. Recently the Supreme Court allowed a high-school football coach to pray with his team on the 50-yard line. Emboldened by the decision, hundreds of State bills have since been introduced, including a decision made weeks ago, in June 2024, where Louisiana became the first State requiring that the 10 Commandments be posted in every public-school classroom — arguing that the measure is "not solely religious".

Attempts by recent radical groups seeking to make our country, like Israel of old, into a Christian "theocracy" are not only unconstitutional, but also ominously reminiscent of the religiously rigid Puritan settlements of the 1600s. Also, while disregarding the clear wording of the First Amendment, a US member of Congress said at a church service not long ago,

***"I'm tired of this separation of church and state junk that's not in the Constitution. It was in a stinking letter, and it means nothing like what they say it does. **The church is supposed to direct the government. The government is not supposed to direct the church. That is not how our Founding Fathers intended it.**"***

We have no guarantee that the separation of church and state will continue, nor that religious freedom will continue to be granted. Liberty and the separation of church and state remain fragile concepts.

## Offertory

"The Lord's Prayer"

Albert Hay Malotte

Ciara Mashea, *soprano*

(\*Deacons will collect the offering as we meditate on the message in music. Please give as you're able — unless otherwise marked, loose offering goes to local church expense.)

Tom Chatt

"Today, on the eve of our nation's 248th birthday, let us consider what America represents to the world. We have no common ethnicity nor national religion, so it is only those ideals and the struggle to live up to them that binds us together as an American people. Our founders understood that they themselves fell short of fully living up to the ideals they proclaimed, but had faith that the shared commitment to those ideals would call upon the better natures of its citizens to make the union 'more perfect'. We began as a nation of slaveholders and slavery-enablers, dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, and went forward from there. We enshrined freedom of speech and of the press in our First Amendment, then one of our first administrations outlawed published criticism of the government. Even as recently as WWI our Supreme Court would endorse criminalization of anti-war expression. We prohibited racial discrimination in the hard-won Fourteenth Amendment, but then discriminated by race as we interned Japanese-Americans during WWII. We put up the Statue of Liberty 'lifting her lamp beside the golden door', but then slammed that door shut on Chinese immigrants and, later, on southern and eastern Europeans. We turned away boatloads of Jewish refugees fleeing Hitler. We seem to be a nation that proclaims ideals but then takes a good while to catch up in practice. That 'shining city on a hill' we like to tout is not where we live yet, but it is a glossy brochure of what we hope to build. We do seem to make slow progress when enough eyes focus on the shared vision. So when we look around today and despair how far short we still fall from our ideals, how far we are from the summit of that shining city, it is useful perspective to turn around and see where we started, and how far we have come. May the ideals that have sustained us so far continue to call us onward and upward." — **Tom Chatt**.

## ★ Closing Hymn

"For This Land In All Its Wonder"

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
1999; Tune: CWM RHONDDA

(1) 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!

(2) 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!

(3) 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!



(4) 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**

Leif Lind

Go to proclaim the freedom of Jesus Christ!  
Go to live the freedom of America!  
Go to protect the freedom to believe!  
May God bless us each! God bless America!  
God bless the world we love!

### ★ **Hymn of Response**

*Lyrics: Barbara Lundblad, 2002; Tune: GOD BLESS AMERICA*

God bless the world we love, stranger and friend,  
Go before us, restore us with a hope that despair cannot end.  
Ev'ry people, ev'ry nation, mighty ocean, heaven's dome,  
God bless the world we love, our only home.



### **Postlude**

"The Solid Rock"

*arr. Kemp L. Smeal*



★ = Please stand where able

# Keep Up With City Church!

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<https://GlendaleCityChurch.org>



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• YouTube: @glendalecitychurch  
for sermons and concerts



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### Preaching schedule and announcements:

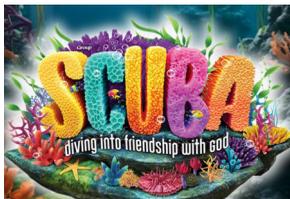
- **July 6** Leif Lind: Independence Day Service
- **July 13** Greg Nelson, communion service. Graduate recognition.

A **memorial service for Norm Sheperd**, who died on June 5, will be held in the Chapel at 4:30 p.m. on July 13.

A celebration of the life of **George Scheideman's sister, Candace Rae Hadley**, who died June 14, will be held on Saturday, August 31 at 6 p.m. at 1121 W Highland Ave., Redlands.

**Please reach out to us.** Feel free to reach out to us if you have a prayer concern, an illness, or a life event for us to be aware of. We are here to help whenever we can. Pastor Leif Lind (909-557-5230) or Beth Johnston Taylor, head elder (909-747-8836), Glendale City Church office (818-244-7241).

We extend deep appreciation to **Glen Christensen** for the generous donation of his plumbing company's services, **Central Services Plumbing**. Our building is old and maintenance costly, and Glen has helped us in many emergency situations. We all appreciate his thoughtfulness and benevolence. We also acknowledge the generous donors who stepped up to ensure we had a quick and painless replacement of our freezer when it stopped working. A **warm thank you** to Lee & Eleanor Posner, Patty & John Nielsen, Allan McDonald, and Wanda Koffman.



**Free VBS at Glendale Adventist Academy, July 15-19, 5:30-8:30 p.m.** for preschool–6th grade. Join in for games, crafts, music, snacks, and creative learning! 700 Kimlin Drive, Glendale.

**Glendale Noon Concert, July 17**, will feature oboist Noah Breneman and pianist Miloš Veljković performing works by Grazyna Bacewicz and Gustav Schreck. All are welcome to this free concert! Further info: <http://glendalenoonconcerts.blogspot.com>.

The Southern California Conference will hold its next **constituency meeting** on September 29. If any member wants to propose an agenda item or change for the bylaws, there is a time-sensitive process for this. To learn more, please contact Beth Johnston Taylor ([ejtaylor61@gmail.com](mailto:ejtaylor61@gmail.com)).