



GLENDALE CITY CHURCH
of Seventh-day Adventists



July 4, 2026

A Service of Lessons & Hymns for Independence Day

WELCOME

We're Glad You're Here



TODAY AT GLENDALE CITY CHURCH

- 9:00AM (*Courtyard Café*) - Come & enjoy a special Fourth of July brunch in our Courtyard!
- 9:30AM (*Fellowship Hall*) - Grace Bible Study 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*) - Join us for a Service of Lessons & Hymns for Independence Day! The service can be viewed online at: youtube.com/glendalecitychurch.
- 12:30PM (*Downstairs Multipurpose Room*) - Open Table Worship will be on break this Sabbath due to the holiday. It will resume next Sabbath as usual after the service.

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

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "**Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,**
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude

Fireworks Music - Overture
George Frederick Handel

Kemp Smeal

Welcome & Call to Worship

Doug Schultz

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."

In gathering today to commemorate 250 years of American independence, we undertake something that is not always easy, but profoundly biblical: we hold together two inseparable realities. As followers of Christ, we gather with heartfelt gratitude. We thank God for the inspiring vision of freedom and liberty, entrusted to us through the wisdom, courage, and sacrifice of those who envisioned a nation founded upon the ideals of equality and "unalienable Rights."

At the same time, we come in humility to grieve how far we continue to fall short of those ideals. We stand together as a community, confessing that while we believe that all are created equal, we have not always been faithful stewards of the blessings of liberty – we have often failed in extending equality to all. 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 stand as we gather in God's presence for our Call to Worship:

Let our songs rise with the wind, echo through the trees,
and fill the earth with the melody of freedom.

Let every voice be lifted; let all that breathe partake.

God of all generations, Author of liberty, we have come to worship You.

You alone are worthy of our praise. Amen.

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Hymn of Praise

God of the Ages
To the Tune of *National Hymn*

Verses 1, 2, 4

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 thy throne arise.

2. 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.

4. 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.

Greetings & Prayer of Gratitude

Uriel Herinirina & Rebecca Barceló

Adapted from

"A Prayer of Thanksgiving for a Community Independence Day Celebration"

by Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia

O Lord our God,

We give you thanks for 250 years of a place many of us can call home—

You have reached into Your abundance and brought forth blessing.

You have reached into Your companionship and brought forth community.

Drawing us together as a nation and drawing us to You.

Thank You for the beauty and wonder of our nation:

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(Prayer Continued)

The fruit of Your land, Your rain, Your light.

The collaboration of You and all the hands along the way meeting daily needs.

May all who are hungry be fed.

May all who are in need find provision.

Thank You for paths of growth and opportunity:

Places of grace, nurture and encouragement, rest and relationship.

Places where safety and belonging are found, gifts are honored and celebrated.

May all who face obstacles reach what they seek.

May all who are lonely, displaced, and fearful find home.

Thank You for all who inspire us and lead us to the greater good:

for all who educate and discover and invent,

for all who seek cures and solutions, and all who seek the stars,

for all who put the welfare of others ahead of their own safety.

For all who work courageously for truth and justice,

liberty and democracy, freedom and integrity and peace.

May honor, equity, and collaboration flourish.

May greed, corruption, and discrimination leave our land.

Let us now offer our own prayers to God:

(You are invited to offer your own prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.)

Thank You for the gift of our nation and our neighbors:

not perfect yet held in Your redeeming grace.

Thank You for the gift of each other, and the gift of You.

Thank You for opportunities to heal and serve and bring change for the better.

Make us a blessing to each other and to the world.

Above all, we give thanks to You for the great promises and mercies given to us and all the world in Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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Historical Background to “The Mayflower Compact”, 1620

Ruth Counts

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

Myron Counts

“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.”

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Worship in Song

The Call
by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Citlali García

A Reading From the Preamble to the Constitution

Lee Posner

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 Civil Rights Leader and Congressman, John Lewis

Allan McDonald

Neighbor Whitney Robinson shared this essay written by John Lewis, civil rights leader and congressman, shortly before he passed away on July 17, 2020.

Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.

When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.

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Hymn of Response

"This Is My Song"
Tune: Finlandia

Verses 1, 2, 3

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 Luke 4

Georgiana Wu

The Gospel according to Luke 4:

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. Then He said to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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Prayer for Liberty & Justice

Margery Rich

As members of this nation, we pledge to be “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” Yet we find ourselves deeply divided. We find liberty and justice wrongfully delayed. May they be delayed no more.

Jesus, we seek your light and life. Let freedom ring for one and all.

Write the truth on the sands of our souls. Help us to be honest with our past and with our now. Slavery and Segregation. Prejudice and Suppression. Discrimination, Violence, and Silence. Far too many continue to live in fear and want. Far too many are targeted.

Jesus, we seek your light and life. Let freedom ring for one and all.

Let us now offer our own prayers to God:

(You are invited to offer your own prayers of lament, intercession, and hope.)

Jesus, your revealing brings forgiveness. Your revealing brings saving power and healing, grace for growth and courage for lasting change.

We lay down the stones of harmful traditions.

We lay down the stones of hard-hearted privilege.

We lay down the stones of hypocrisy, apathy, and systemic oppression.

Write a new story in our lives and land.

Write equality and opportunity.

Write justice and dignity.

Write friendship, freedom, solidarity, and hope.

May your peace be with us and flow through us.

We need you and your redeeming love.

We all need you.

Amen.

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Hymn of Response

God of Grace & God of Glory

Verses 1, 3, 4

1) God of grace and God of glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power;
Now fulfill Thy church's story,
Bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour.

3) Cure Thy children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to Thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness
Rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

4) 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 Isaiah 11:6-9

John Nielsen

A wolf will reside with a lamb, and a leopard will lie down with a young goat; an ox and a young lion will graze together, as a small child leads them along. A cow and a bear will graze together, their young will lie down together. A lion, like an ox, will eat straw. A baby will play over the hole of a snake; over the nest of a serpent an infant will put his hand. They will no longer injure or destroy on my entire royal mountain. For there will be universal submission to the Lord's sovereignty, just as the waters completely cover the sea.

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Pastoral Reflection

Uriel Herinirina

From Robert Coles' The Spiritual Life of Children

All the people are sitting in a circle, and they are brothers and sisters, everyone! That's when all the spirits will dance and dance, and the stars will dance, and the sun and moon will dance and the birds will swoop down and they'll dance, and all the people, everywhere, will stand up and dance, and then they'll sit down again in a big circle, so huge you can't see where it goes, or how far, if you're standing on the mesa and looking into the horizon, and everyone is happy. No more fights. Fights are a sign that we have gotten lost, and forgotten our ancestors, and are in the worst trouble. When the day comes that we're all holding hands in the big circle – no, not just us Hopis, everyone – then that's what the word 'good' means...and the whole world will be good when we're all in our big, big circle. We're going around and around until we all get to be there!

Offertory

Lord of the Small

Citlali García

by Dan Forrest

Closing Hymn

"For This Land In All Its Wonder"

By Carolyn

Melody of: *CWM Rhondda*

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!

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(Hymn Continued)

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

Rebecca Barceló

Postlude

Water Music Suite - Hornpipe
George Frederick Handel

Kemp Smeal



Note.

JOIN US FOR A

SUMMER *Picnic*

SATURDAY, JULY 25

~12:45pm - After Service

LUNCH PROVIDED

Lower Scholl Canyon Park

2849 E Glenoaks Blvd,

Glendale, CA 91206

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you for supporting Glendale City Church. Your generosity helps keep our church open, welcoming, and thriving.

Maintaining a facility like ours is costly, so we're inviting you to partner with us by choosing a monthly giving level to help cover the maintenance of this beautiful church.

- **Gold Level:** (\$500+/per month): Supports major maintenance and repairs, janitorial service, and water or power bills.
- **Silver Level:** (\$250-\$499/per month): Covers gas bill, trash services, and technology needs such as our GCC website costs.
- **Bronze Level:** (\$25-\$249/per month): Helps with property taxes, phone service, copier lease, office supplies, internet and gardening costs.

Scan here to donate:
(choose your level and select "set up recurring donation")



Thank you for helping us keep our church vibrant,
welcoming, and running strong!

STAY CONNECTED

PREACHING SCHEDULE

July 11:
Leif Lind

July 18:
Rebecca Barceló
(Communion Sabbath)



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see upcoming events & more!**



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