

Sunday, June 14, 2020

Scattered Together

Welcome & Announcements [Click here for the Geoffrey Carter's video announcements](#)

Welcome to El Montecito Presbyterian Church's interactive worship gathering online. Today we're looking at God's provision in crisis under King Uzziah and his faithfulness in the Commission of Isaiah. As we worship today, may our hearts be encouraged, may our love abound in knowledge and depth of insight, and may our hands be equipped to produce the fruits of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory of God.

Prayer of Invocation

From 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (Read in unison)

You have promised, O LORD, that what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, the Holy Spirit would reveal to those who love you. We are gathered because we love. You promised the Holy Spirit to all who ask, so now fulfill that promise. Wonderful God, please fill us with wonder. Amen.

Call to Worship

Isaiah 57:15 (Read in unison)

For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit, to receive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Worship in Song

[Click here for all 3 worship songs](#)

Matthew Roy

Immortal, Invisible

God of the Ages

Majesty

Prayers for the Church & the World

Errin Cecil-Smith

Gracious God, our Heavenly Father, we humbly come before you, asking for your divine help in this time of need. We need to hear from you. We need a word from you. Speak to our hearts as we are seeking you.

As doctors, scientists and our political leaders impart their best wisdom; as the pandemics of coronavirus and institutional racism overwhelm our communities, claiming lives, threatening millions and bringing new awareness to the lives our black brother and sisters; as we are encompassed by fear and a legitimate concern over the well-being of family, friends and our fellow humans, only you can settle our hearts and minds.

We need your peace for such a time as this. Give us peace, oh Lord. And give us an awakening.

Lord, you are the architect of all creation. There is no virus, no plague, no pestilence, no pandemic, no earthen tragedy that has ever caught you unaware. And while some might question the necessity of, or our proclivity, for prayer in times like these, people of faith have no recourse except to call upon your name.

So we call upon you. We seek your face. We humbly ask for your mercy and grace. We ask for wisdom and your divine hand of provision and guidance.

Lord, we pray that THIS church will now arise and be THE church. To be the hands and feet of Jesus, and to now remember the widow, the poor and the orphaned. To wash the feet of those we have shunned; to stand in solidarity with the least of these, and recognize the rights we all share to health, safety and equality.

Let the church resound with a message of hope and the fervent prayer for healing and deliverance — even as it mourns in repentance for its sins of greed, hypocrisy, racism, otherism and having abandoned its first love.

Be an unbreachable fence around peaceful protests, single mothers, the elderly and the infirm who are now cut off from family amid this pandemic. Be an impenetrable shield for our black and brown sisters, for the medical workers and staff, researchers and first responders on the front lines.

Let our leaders speak truth. Lord, tie the tongues of liars who want to deceive us. Let the spirit of community and brotherhood and sisterhood arise. Let us remember to love our neighbor as ourselves—to look out for one another, having been fully reminded by this current state of emergency that we are all in this together. Reminded, that you, Lord, are no respecter of persons.

Lord, every now and then, we need reminders. Reminders of our human frailty. Reminders of our powerlessness. Reminders of our own biases and blindness — in spite of our own pride and sense of economic, political or social status.

Since the beginning of time, Lord, we have seen moments of truth for humanity. A moment when all the earth seems to stand still, stunned by our inability to deter, avert and remedy a historical catastrophe like those we are experiencing today. And yet, in that moment of truth, as people of faith, we stand in awe of an omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent God whose eye is on the sparrow.

So Lord, we thank you.

Thank you, Lord, for watching over us. For deliverance. For the faith and wisdom to seek the grace and mercy of an invisible God, even as enemies of illness and inequality encroach. By your Spirit, we shall prevail.

Take some time to intercede for your family, friends and neighbors. Pray for our world leaders, medical professionals, and first responders as they deal with the COVID-19 virus. Pray for the worldwide church and missionaries serving in kingdom work. Pray for Pastor Tom, Elders, Deacons and staff as we serve and prepare for reopening our church campus. Pray for our ELMO family with specific needs:

Our Missionaries the Bultemas, Callisons, Mexico Mission Partners and Alex Smith
Alice Favor, for her heart condition
Matt, the Marbles grandson, for recovery from extensive burns
Shirley Fender's niece, Katie, in need of a liver transplant
Bill Gowler, for a new 4 to 7 week radiation treatment for his cancer
Ann Marie King, for recent diagnosis of atrial fibrillation and recovery from shock treatment
Bill Allmon, for his heart condition and Anita as caregiver
Reverend George W. Smith, Jeffrey Smith's dad, for cancer surgery and that it has not spread
Gordon Reisig, for a full recovery from surgery on his brain
Frank Phillips, for recovery from hip replacement surgery
Lynette Johnson, for recovery from surgery to remove a brain tumor
Ken Working, for wisdom and guidance for his falls and health for the family
Jan Tornquist, for continued strength after chemotherapy treatment
Bereavement, for the family and friends of Peggy Cochrane

We pray all this in the name of our precious Lord Jesus Christ who taught us to pray: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

[Click here for the video](#)

Melia Haugen

God's Word Read & Proclaimed

Scripture Reading

[Isaiah 6:1-8 NIV](#) (Read aloud)

Sermon

[God's Response to Human Crisis](#)

Pastor Anton Hoffmann

(Click on link for Sermon)

Song of Response

Blessed Assurance

[Click here for music & lyrics](#)

Tithes & Offerings

Follow this [link to give online](#). You can also mail or drop your tithes and offerings in the box outside the office doors.

Remember our tithes and offerings are a continued act of worship and a physical act of entrusting all of our lives to Jesus as we join God in his work in our community and around the world.

Doxology

[Click here for music & lyrics](#)

with Emily Sommermann

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Benediction

Isaiah 35: 1-4, 2 Corinthians 11:14 (Read in unison)

One day the wilderness will blossom with flowers; and the desert wasteland will come alive with new growth. And God's glory and splendor will be on full display. With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to save you."

So go with confidence into the days ahead. And may the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit, be among you and within you. Amen.

Sunday Virtual Coffee and Doughnut Holes

Please join us for a time of fellowship via Zoom at 11:00 am today – if you are able.

During this time of social distancing, God is with you!

And, we're here for you by phone or online. Please direct prayer requests to: elmoprayers@gmail.com

Office is closed, but voicemail will be checked.

Rev. Tom Haugen, Pastor

Suzy Dobreski, Early School Director

Dr. Matthew Roy, Music Director

Maryann Spradley, Office Administrator

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The Entire Congregation, Ministers of the Gospel

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Sermon Notes: