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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor  
Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director  
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

August 17, 2025

9:45 AM

**Biblical Detectives: Discovering the Unknown**  
**Prayer**

*Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.*

*We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy! Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JOYS & CONCERNS**

**PRELUDE** (sung by the Saints)

**GATHERING LITURGY<sup>1</sup>**

L: We gather today as seekers of discovery, carried by wonder, embraced by mystery, drawn here by the God who is always revealing more.

**C: We come with expectant hearts, ready to meet the Living God.**

L: This is the wonder we cannot keep silent:

**C: May this eternal truth be always on our hearts: that the God who breathed this world into being, placed stars into the heavens, and designed a butterfly's wing, is the God who entrusted His Son to the care of ordinary people, and became vulnerable that we might know the strength and wonder of His Love. A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp. A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.**

L: Let us worship this God of wonder, mystery, and love.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# Come and Find the Quiet Center

Shirley Erena Murray, 1985

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$\text{♩} = 150$

Piano

1. Come and find the quiet center in the  
2. Si-lence is a friend who claims us, cools the  
3. In the Spir-it let us tr-av-el, o-pen

4

crowd-ed life we lead, find the room for hope to  
heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and  
to each oth-er's pain, let our loves and fears un-

7

en-ter, find the frame where we are freed; Clear the  
na-mes us, knows our be-ing, touch-es base, mak-ing  
-rav-el, cel-e-brate the space we gain: There's a

10

cha-os and the clut-ter, clear our eyes that we can  
space with-in our think-ing, lift-ing shades to sh-ow the  
place for deep-est dream-ing, there's a time for heart to

13

see all the things that real-ly ma-ter, be at  
sun, rais-ing cour-age when we're shri-nk-ing, find-ing  
care, in the Spir-it's live-ly schem-ing there is

16

peace, and sim-ply be.  
scope for faith be-gun.  
al-ways room to spare.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## **\*TIME OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Holy God,

**C: you invite us to live in mystery—to walk by faith, not by sight. But we confess: we prefer certainty. We long for clear paths, fixed plans, and predictable outcomes. You call us to trust in your promises, to see the world through your eyes of mercy. But too often, we rely on our own understanding, measuring life by what we can control.**

**You speak of new creation, of old things passing away and everything becoming new. But we hold on to the familiar, afraid to let go of what no longer gives life. It is hard to live by faith. Forgive us, O God of mercy.**

**Forgive us for playing god, for clinging to illusions of control, instead of resting in your mystery and love. Teach us again to walk by faith. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear this good news: The God who scattered stars across the heavens also plants seeds of grace in the soil of your soul. Though the work is hidden, though the growth is a mystery, God is making all things new—even you. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, we all are forgiven, set free to live by faith, and called to grow in love.

**ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **SCRIPTURE**

*Luke 22:39-46 (CEB)*  
*Philippians 4:6-7 (CEB)*

### **INVESTIGATING THE QUESTIONS**

**HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 2171 FWS** (see next page)

*Take My Life and Let it Be*

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# Take My Life, and Let It Be

Frances R. Havergal, 1874

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Take	my	life,	and	let	it	be
2. Take	my	hands,	and	let	them	move
3. Take	my	voice,	and	let	me	sing
4. Take	my	sil -	ver	and	my	gold;
5. Take	my	will,	and	make	it	thine;
6. Take	my	love,	my	Lord,	I	pour

3

con - se - cra - ted,	Lord, to thee.	Take my mo - ments
at the im - pulse	of thy love.	Take my feet, and
al - ways, on - ly,	for my King.	Take my lips, and
not a mite would	I with - hold.	Take my in - tel -
it shall be no	lon - ger mine.	Take my heart, it
at thy feet its	trea - sure store.	Take my - self, and

6

and my days;	let them flow in	cease-less praise.
let them be	swift and beau - ti -	ful for thee.
let them be	filled with mes - sag -	es from thee.
- lect, and use	ev - ery power as	thou shalt choose.
is thine own;	it shall be thy	roy - al throne.
I will be	ev - er, on - ly,	all for thee.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL:** 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

*Nearer, My God to Thee*

by Raney

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\*CLOSING HYMN NCH NO. 505** (see next page)

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Gospel Medley*

arr. Tate

## References

<sup>1</sup>The opening liturgy includes the writing of John Birch, posted on [Faith and Worship - Prayers and Resources](https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/sending-mystery-so-deep.html) and used with permission as accessed at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/sending-mystery-so-deep.html> on 6/11/25.

<sup>2</sup>The prayer of confession is inspired by the work of by Peter Bankson. Posted on the **Worship Elements** page of the **Ministry Matters** website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/> and accessed on 6/11/25.

**Welcome Team Members—**Brenda & Jim Beyer, Jesse & Nancy Sleeper

**Liturgist—**Jen Miller

**Tech Team—**Ron Miles, Paul Ramsey

**Special Musicians—**The Saints

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Walford, 1845

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a  
 2. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the  
 3. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe -

5

world of care, and bids me at my Mak-er's throne let all my needs and  
 bliss I share of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for  
 - ti - tion bear to One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing

9

wants be known. In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has of - ten  
 your re - turn! With them I has - ten to the place where I would know my  
 soul to bless. And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be - lieve God's word, and

13

found re - lief, and oft escaped the tempt-er's snare by your re-turn, sweet  
 Sav - ior's face, And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet  
 trust God's grace, I'll cast a - way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet

17

hour of prayer!  
 hour of prayer!  
 hour of prayer!