

Prayer Service in the Aftermath of the Los Angeles Fires

February 2, 2025 • 2 pm EST (11 am PST)

Gathering Music

Rev. Chris Palmer

Opening Song

Rev. Chris Palmer

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Jonah So & Rev. Grace Park

Opening Prayer

Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike

Scripture Reading Psalm 46:1-7

Elder David Wood, Pacific Palisades & Elder Madeleine Fackler, Fifth Avenue

(Odd verses in bold read by David, even verses read by Madeleine)

**God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.**

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
**though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Reflection

Rev. Matthew Hardin

Response

Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

Joint Litany

Elder Meg Sheehan, Clerk of Session, Fifth Avenue

Elder Cynthia Block, Clerk of Session, Pacific Palisades

(Verses in bold read by Meg, non-bold verses read by Cynthia)

God of compassion,

you have always walked with your people through wilderness and loss.

**Be present again with those on our screens and all our neighbors in Los Angeles
whose lives have been utterly upended by these terrible fires.**

God of Compassion,

we have lost the familiar sounds of worship in our sacred space,

the quiet hum of prayer, the melody of hymns echoing through church walls.

We are displaced and grieving.

When sorrow feels unending,

remind us of Your deep well of comfort and care.

When despair takes root,

remind us Your mercies are new every morning.

When we feel helpless,

teach us to trust in Your redemptive work.

When we are overwhelmed with grief,

surround us with Your unfailing love.

Compassionate God,

we will wait upon You,

and we will walk together.

Compassionate God,

we will trust in Your steadfast love,

and we will walk together.

Amen.

Closing Music “Precious Lord”

Michael Payne & Austin Ho

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Werner Ramirez

Benediction

Rev. Werner Ramirez