

April 21, 2024

# LONELINESS

Grief & Longing

9:30 AM



THE CITY



*We exist to connect all people with Jesus Christ.  
We do this by welcoming enthusiastically,  
growing deeply and serving courageously.*

## 🌀 Welcome 🌀

*Children of all ages and their rustling are welcome in our worship services.*

*Nursery care is available in Whittler Treehouse during this service.*

*Children's Sunday School is available at 11:00 AM in Whittler Treehouse.*

**PRELUDE** "You Are Not Alone" (Mavis Staples)

City Band

**WELCOME**

Pastors Daniel & Jewell

### **OPENING WORDS**

From this pining place of loneliness

**Come to this sanctuary of welcome.**

From your bitter cul-de-sac of longing and grief

**Listen to Christ's invitation.**

When your longing feels languishing or limp, or green, or muted, or mournful, or spent

**Hear Jesus calling you gently:**

***"Come, my dear ones, don't be afraid. I know you are lonely.***

***I know you feel longing and grief. It might feel like death, but I know there is resurrection. I will not ask too much. Together let's try ritual, attending to the feelings that swirl around us.***

***So you can rise again in presence and connection."***

**Amen.**

### **OPENING MUSIC**

- "Rise Up (Lazarus)" (CAIN)
- "You Are Not Alone" (Mavis Staples)

### **COMMUNITY GREETING**

**CITY SINGERS** "Sweet By and By" (Joel Raney)

### **TIME OF PRAYER**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Lamentations 3:55-58; Luke 22:7-16

Holy Spirit, as we have read this Scripture in our community, humbly interpreting through Reason, varied Experience and Tradition, bless our hearing and understanding.

**May our listening be done with love.**

**MESSAGE** “The Loneliness Epidemic: Grief, Longing”

Pastor Daniel

**SONG OF RESPONSE** “It Is Well With My Soul” (Spafford/Bliss)

**COMMUNAL PRAYER**

**Dear Jesus, we are coming today: alone and together. Alone in our loneliness, in our emotions, in our fears, in the secret depths of our hearts. Together in our loneliness, this epidemic of our communities, a crisis for which we need a savior. Alone, we ask for ourselves, the grace we need to receive the grace you offer. Together, we ask for each other, for grace to give and empathy to hear. With hope in your resurrection. Amen.**

**COMMUNION**

*Communion is open to all and children of any age are welcome to help serve communion in The City. Come on up if you're interested in volunteering!*

**COMMUNION MUSIC** “You're Not Alone” (Meredith Andrews)

**TIME OF OFFERING**

*To e-give, text “MOUMC” to 73256 or give online using the QR code below.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** “You're Not Alone” (Meredith Andrews)

Acknowledgements:

Series liturgy by S. Jewell S. McChee and Barb Stanford

Cover art designed by Daniel Hilty with “Very Present Sorrow” art by S. Jewell S. McChee

Loneliness Monologue by Elizabeth Braaten Palmieri; sponsored by MUMC's Arts in

Worship

[moumc.org/give](http://moumc.org/give)





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Earth Day | Today!

Stop by the Connector between services for a Green Samaritan reusable shopping bag. From 12-6:30PM, Green Samaritans will host an Earth Day booth on the corner of 9th and Elm. Be sure to walk down Elm Street to Peace Park to see other Earth Day booths.

### Next Steps Lunch | April 28 @ 12:15PM in the Parlor

If you are new to MUMC and want to know more, our Next Steps Lunch is for anyone considering becoming a MUMC member. Come join our pastors and get your questions answered. RSVP [liz@moumc.org](mailto:liz@moumc.org) by Wednesday.

### Conservatory Singers Reception and Recital | May 5 @ Noon in the Parlor

Help us honor and show our appreciation to Sophie Heimerl, Nathan Le, Lukas Parrish, Lucas Da Silva, Meg Lyon, and Dani Major who have shared their gift of music with MUMC.

### Walking through Grief | Tuesdays, May 7-July 9 @ 1-3PM

A grief support group for anyone who has lost someone through death.

### Send us your recipes!

We'd like to share some of your favorite spring and summer recipes in the newsletter. Please email recipes to [liz@moumc.org](mailto:liz@moumc.org) and watch for them in the Messenger.

For this week's event calendar, visit [moumc.org/calendar](http://moumc.org/calendar).

Submit your connect card and share prayer concerns at [moumc.org/comm-card](http://moumc.org/comm-card).

## CONNECT WITH US!

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