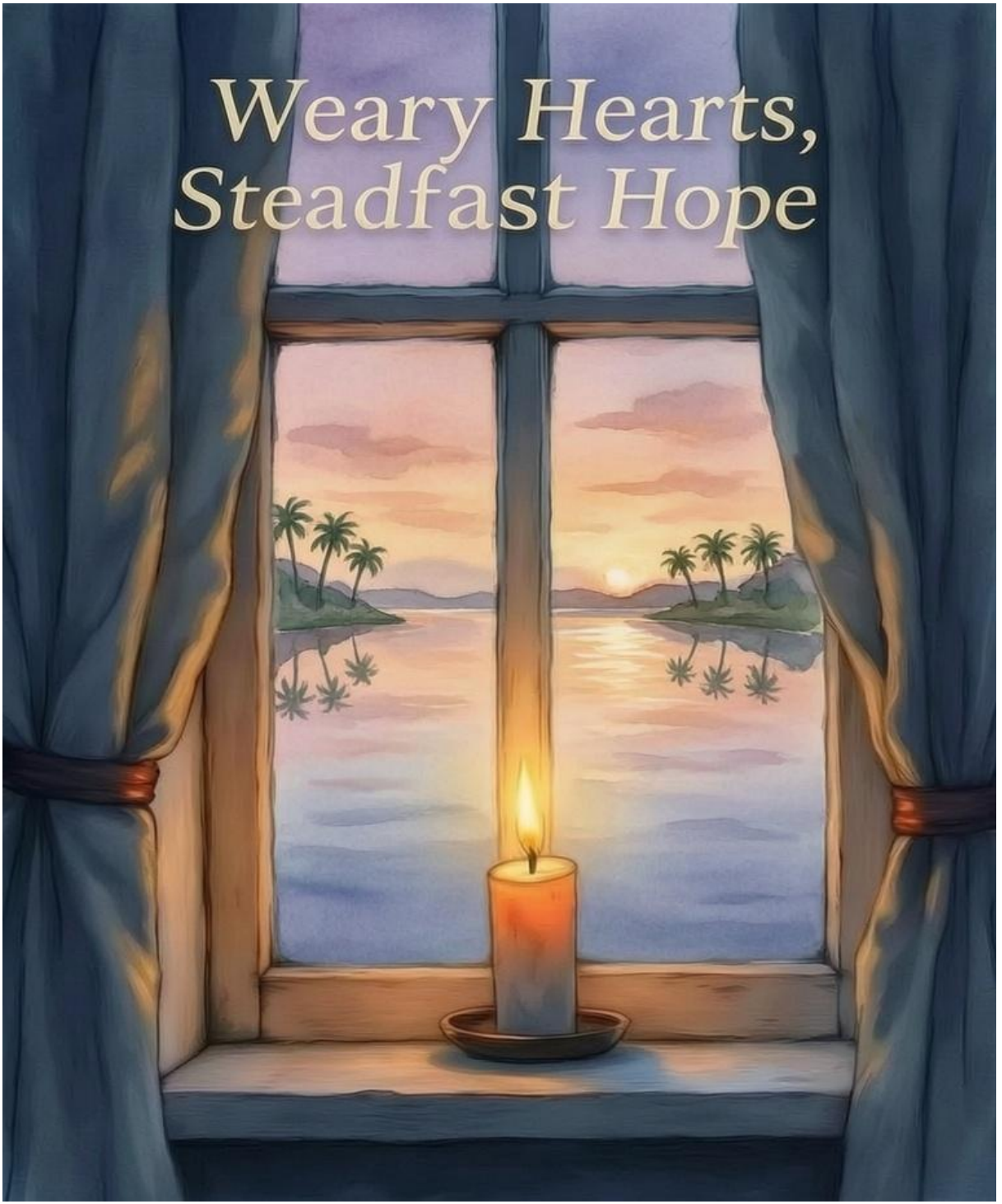

AN ELECTION EVE SERVICE OF PRAYER

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 2, 2026 **6:30 p.m.**

GATHERING MUSIC

Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, all who are weary from the noise.

Many: We come seeking a stillness in which truth can be heard.

One: Come, all who hunger for justice.

Many: We come seeking courage to love our neighbors in word and deed.

One: Come, all who grieve the cruelty of our public life.

Many: We come seeking a peace that does not turn away from suffering.

One: Come with your questions, your anger, your fragile hope.

Many: We bring our whole selves into the presence of God.

One: The Holy One meets us here, not with a demand that we be unafraid, but with a promise that we are not alone.

Many: Let us worship the God who holds us, challenges us, and calls us toward love.

OPENING PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE *Come and Fill*

Come and fill all my life, Come and fill all my life.
Each and every ten-der place: Holy Breath, move through me.

Come and fill all my life, Come and fill all my life.
Pouring gently, rushing strong; Holy Breath, move through me.

A TIME TO REFLECT

One: We are here.

Many: God is with us.

One: We do not carry this alone.

Many: We belong to one another.

QUIET PRAYER

Let us enter a time of quiet prayer, bringing our sighs, our worries, our hopes, and our longings into God's loving presence. There is room here for grief and gratitude, for questions without answers, and for prayers too deep for words.

THE WITNESS OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40: 28-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. God does not faint or grow weary; God's understanding is unsearchable. God gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Matthew 11:29-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Romans 8:38-39

None of this fazes us because God loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing, nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable, absolutely *nothing* can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus has embraced us.

Friends, listen. God is still speaking!

Thanks be to God!

REFLECTION

SONG *Democracy* Leonard Cohen
Brandan Mowry, vocalist

LITANY OF HOPE AND PEACE

One: When the noise grows louder than our capacity to listen,
Many: God of peace, steady our hearts.
One: When we fear for ourselves, our children, or those we love,
Many: God of compassion, hold us close.
One: When people are targeted because of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or place of birth,
Many: God of justice, make us courageous neighbors.
One: When lies spread and truth is treated as a weapon,
Many: God of wisdom, teach us discernment and honesty.
One: When anger tempts us to deny another person's humanity,
Many: God of mercy, keep our hearts from contempt.
One: When calls for unity ask the wounded to accept injustice,
Many: God of truth, lead us toward repair, not denial.
One: When peace seems distant,
M**any: Teach us the patient, courageous work of peacemaking.**
One: When we are tempted to believe that we must do everything,
Many: Remind us that we are part of a community.
One: When we are tempted to believe that nothing we do matters,
Many: Show us the next faithful act of love.
One: Through tomorrow, through the counting, through whatever follows,
Many: Root us in love. Sustain us in hope. Lead us in peace.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR THIS ELECTION SEASON

One: Let us pray for this country and for all whose lives are touched by its choices.

Many: Hear our prayer.

One: For all who are afraid tonight; for those who hear their own lives and families debated as though they were abstractions; for those who wonder whether they will be safe or welcome:

Many: Hear our prayer.

One: For voters: for clear information, freedom from intimidation, accessible polling places, and the opportunity to participate without unjust barriers:

Many: Hear our prayer.

One: For election workers, poll workers, volunteers, and all entrusted with counting and safeguarding votes: grant safety, patience, integrity, and the time needed to do their work faithfully:

Many: Hear our prayer.

One: For candidates and elected officials: loosen the grip of vanity, resentment, and the hunger for power. Strengthen honesty, humility, accountability, and a commitment for the common good:

Many: Hear our prayer.

One: For journalists and all who communicate with the public: grant care with facts, resistance to sensationalism, and courage to tell difficult truths:

Many: Hear our prayer.

One: For our families, friendships, congregations, and communities strained by political conflict: help us speak with integrity, listen with care, and maintain boundaries where they are needed for safety:

Many: Hear our prayer.

One: For people beyond our borders whose lives are affected by this nation's decisions; for those living amid war, displacement, poverty, and a changing climate:

Many: Hear our prayer.

One: Holy One, receive what we have spoken and what we cannot yet put into words. Where we can act, give us courage. Where we must wait, give us companionship. Where we need rest, give us freedom to receive it. Amen.

***HYMN** *How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies*

How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain;
Our purple mountains as they rise above the fruitful plain.
America! America! God's gracious gifts abound,
And more and more we're grateful for life's bounty all around.

Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters and our sons:
O may we never rest content till all are truly one.
America! America! God grant that we may be
A sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

How beautiful, sincere lament, the wisdom born of tears,
The courage called for to repent, the bloodshed through the years.
America! America! God grant that we may be
A nation blessed with none oppressed, true land of liberty.

How beautiful, two continents, and islands in the sea
That dream of peace, non-violence, all people living free.
Americas! Americas! God grant that we may be
A hemisphere where people here all live in harmony.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING, JUST PEACE, W.I.S.E., CREATION JUSTICE,
ANTI-RACISM, AND SANCTUARY CHURCH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!

ALL are welcome to this time and place of worship.
Know that in this church you are welcome as you are and for who you are.
As followers of Christ, we are compelled by the Gospel to seek
reconciliation and wholeness in a world that is all too often
an unloving place.
Therefore, whether you are gay, straight, or in-between;
whatever your country of origin or ancestry;
whether you are a believer, a doubter or a seeker;
in Christ's love, we welcome you, so that by the power
of the Holy Spirit we can work together to
usher in God's Reign of justice, peace, and mercy.

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