



The Sanctuary



April 21, 2024

4th Sunday after Easter

PRELUDE

L'Orgue Mystique No.20:2
Charles Tournemire (1870-1939)

Josh Roebuck
Organ

WORDS OF WELCOME

Molly Vetter
Senior Pastor

May the peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

HYMN

All Creatures of Our God and King

United Methodist Hymnal
No. 62

Please stand as you are able.



1. All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us
4. Dear moth-er earth, who day by day un-fold-est bless-ings on our
5. All ye who are of ten-der heart, for-giv-ing oth-ers, take your



sing, O praise ye! Al-le-lu-ia! O broth-er sun with gold-en
way, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! The flowers and fruits that in thee
part, O praise ye! Al-le-lu-ia! Ye who long pain and sor-row



beam, O sis-ter moon with sil-ver gleam!
grow, let them God's glo-ry al-so show!
bear, praise God and on him cast your care!

Refrain



O praise ye! O praise ye! Al-le-



lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Words: Francis of Assisi, ca. 1225; trans. by William H. Draper, 1925, adapt. 1987
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623
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TODAY'S WORSHIP GUIDE

To access a digital version of today's worship guide, use the QR code on the right or visit www.westwoodumc.org/Livestream



MORNING PRAYER

Tonia Symensma-Cohen

Please be seated.

*God of earth and sky, of seas, forests, mountains, and meadows—
We give thanks for your good Creation, and we celebrate your family of life!*

*God of stars and planets, of bugs and birds and all creatures great and small—
We give thanks for your good Creation, and we celebrate your family of life!*

*Open us, God to the wonder of your good Creation, its beauty and grace.
Open us, God, to gratitude and celebration.*

*Open us, also, O God, to the pain of your good Creation, to the cries of all your children.
Give us courage to feel the grief and outrage
and to work towards justice and healing of all your children.*

*Open us, God, to wonder, grief, courage, and gratitude.
We give thanks, O God, and we celebrate with you
and your whole community of life!*

~adapted from a prayer from the United Methodist
Creation Justice Movement

ANTHEM

We're Building a Circle of Love
McCutcheon & Larson

Westwood Kids

*We're building a circle of love; we'll start with you and me.
We're building a circle of love; come join God's family!
We'll reach out to our neighborhood, and then to all the world.
We're building a circle of love, my friends,
We're building a circle of God's love.*

*We'll share the love God's given us for all the world to see.
The circle grows as others join our great big family.
Let's sing it out till all have found that love sent from above!
Come help us spread the news to all!
We're building a circle of God's love!*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Diana Holbert
Pastor of Children & Families

SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISM

Molly Vetter & Sharon Rhodes-Wickett

Jasmeen Ayomide Bamgbose Whitaker

Parents: Rolake Bamgbose Whitaker & Justice Whitaker
Godparents: Harry Shum, Jr., Kemi Oyemade, and Zoe Jackson

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (WHEN INDICATED):

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround this child with a community of love and forgiveness,
that she may grow in trust of God, and be found faithful in service to others.**

We will pray for her to be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

HYMN

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

**United Methodist Hymnal
No. 611**

1. Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
2. Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -
with the Spir - it's sign; with this wa - ter
a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re -
God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.

Words: Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981
Music: STUTTGART, Attr. to C.F.Witt, 1715; adapt. by Henry J. Gaundlett, 1861
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THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 98:1-9

John Holbert

*O sing to the Lord a new song,
for the Lord has done marvelous things!
God's right hand and holy arm
have gotten the victory.
The Lord has declared victory,
and has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
The Lord has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the Ruler, the Lord!*

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
 the world and those who dwell in it!
 Let the floods clap their hands;
 let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord,
 who comes to judge the earth.
 The Lord will judge the world with righteousness,
 and the peoples with equity.

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

For Every Child

**A Greener Place to Grow
 Songbook, p. 32**

1. For ev - 'ry child, a gift of God from birth,
 we hold in trust a world of sa - cred space.
 Will there be peace and beau - ty on the earth,
 a plan - et healed and held in gen - tle grace?

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 Music: GREEN EARTH; Colin Gibson (b. 1933); © 2011, GIA Publications, Inc.
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SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:25-33

Molly Vetter

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

3. This is our call: to live what we be - lieve
and tend this earth, the on - ly home we know.
And by God's grace our chil - dren will re - ceive
a world re - vived, a green - er place to grow.

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SERMON

The Liberating Heart of Scripture: Creation and Belonging

Molly Vetter


THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO PRAYER

Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)
from the United Methodist Hymnal No. 583

Chancel Choir
Taylor Jacobs, soloist

*Sois la semilla que ha de crecer, sois Estrella que ha de brillar.
Sois levadura, sois grano de sal, antorcha que debe alumbrar.
Sois la mañana que vuelve a nacer, sois espiga que empieza a granar.
Sois aguijón y caricia a la vez, testigos que voy a enviar.*

Refrain: *Id, amigos, por el mundo, anunciando el amor, mensajeros de la vida,
Dela paz y el perdón. Sed, amigos, mis testigos de mi resurrección.
Id llevando mi presencia; con vosotros estoy.*

Translation:

You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a star that will shine in the night;
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to grow in the dark.
You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
You are a sting and a soft, gentle touch, my witnesses wher'er you go.

Refrain: Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all, messengers of my
forgiving peace, eternal love. Be, my friends, a loyal witness,
from the dead I arose; "Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."

THE 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.

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND LIVES

Molly Vetter

GIVING BACK TO GOD

We are thankful for all that God has blessed us with, and we consider financial giving an act of worship. We invite you to express your worship by becoming a faithful giver to support God's work through Westwood Church. To make a one-time or recurring donation, **use the QR code** or visit **www.Westwood UMC.org/Give**.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

This is My Maker's World

Chancel Choir

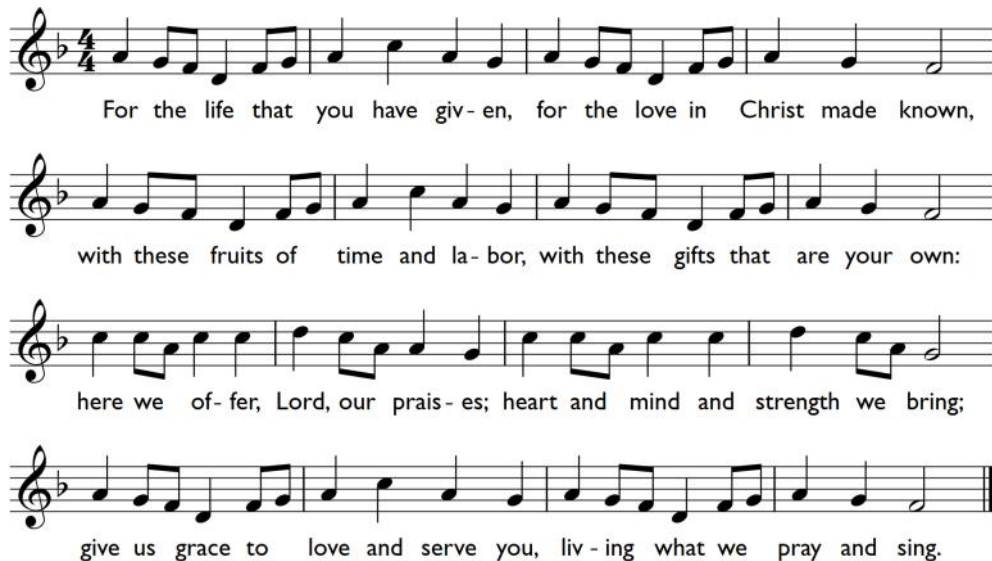
Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1977)

Sabrina Langlois, soloist

*This is my Makers's world,
 and to my listening ears
 all nature sings, and round me rings
 the music of the spheres.
 This is my Makers's world:
 I rest me in the thought
 of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
 God's hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Maker's world,
 the birds their carols raise,
 the morning light, the lily white,
 declare their Maker's praise.
 This is my Makers's world:
 God shines in all that's fair;
 in the rustling grass I hear you pass,
 you speak to me everywhere.*

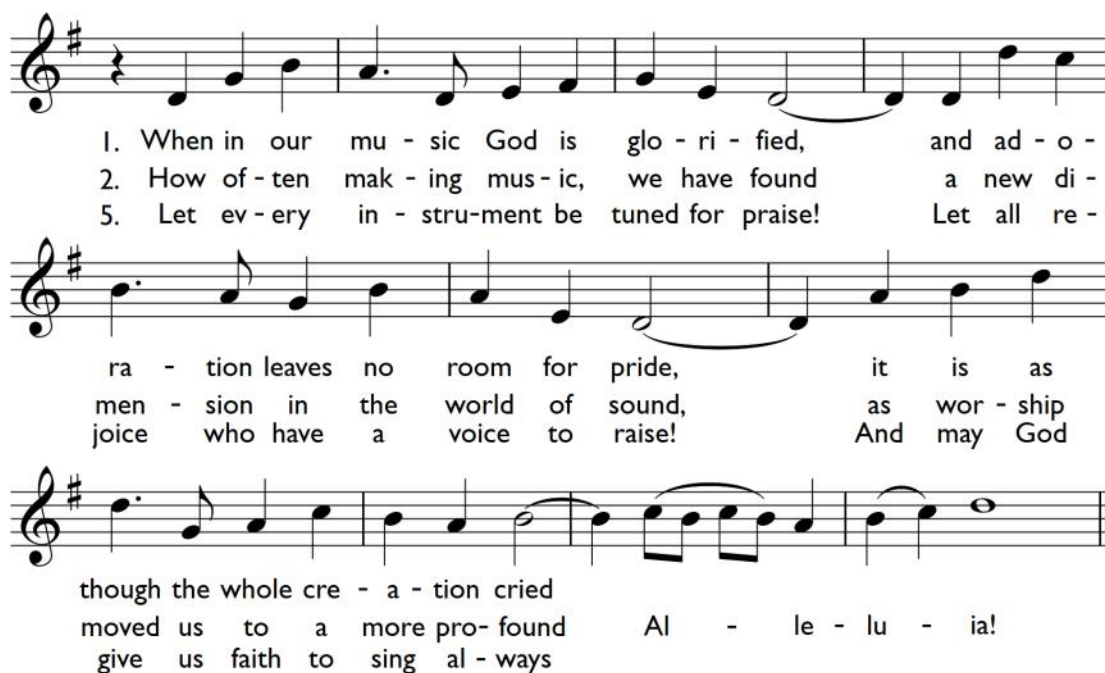
*This is my Maker's world.
 O let me ne'er forget
 That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
 God is the ruler yet.
 This is my Maker's world:
 Why should my heart be sad?
 My soul shall sing: let the heavens ring!
 God reigns; let earth be glad!*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE*For the Life That You Have Given***Glory to God Hymnal***Please stand as you are able.***No. 717**


For the life that you have giv-en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la-bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of-fer, Lord, our prais-es; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, liv-ing what we pray and sing.

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987; c. 1990 Hope Publishing Company
Music: PLEADING SAVIOR, Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830/31
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PRAYER OF DEDICATION**Molly Vetter***Please remain standing as you are able.*

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE
HYMN*When in Our Music God is Glorified***United Methodist Hymnal****No. 68**


1. When in our mu-sic God is glo-ri-fied, and ad-o-
2. How of-ten mak-ing mus-ic, we have found a new di-
5. Let ev-ery in-stru-ment be tuned for praise! Let all re-
ra-tion leaves no room for pride, it is as
men-sion in the world of sound, as wor-ship
joice who have a voice to raise! And may God
though the whole cre-a-tion cried
moved us to a more pro-found Al-le-lu-ia!
give us faith to sing al-ways

Words: Fred Pratt Green © 1972 Hope Publishing Co.
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Molly Vetter

PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

For **Sabrina Langlois**, our soprano section leader, who's last day with us is today.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please remain seated.

Festive Trumpet Tune
David German (b.1954)

Josh Roebuck

Westwood UMC Mission Statement

Westwood Church is a Christian community that welcomes all people and focuses on becoming and making disciples committed to justice, kindness and walking humbly with God. We welcome and affirm our ministry with all persons, regardless of age, race, ethnic origin, economic status, ability, gender, marital status or sexual orientation, from first-time visitor to lifetime member.

We seek to understand and carry out God's will, bearing witness to Christ's compassion and embracing the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We foster spiritual growth in all persons - children, youth, and adults; through individual and corporate prayer and study, worship of God, nurturing relationships, and participating in ministries of justice and mercy at home and in the global community. ALL ministries of Westwood UMC are available to ALL people.

A Reconciling Church: We, the faith community of Westwood Church, affirm that a God-filled perspective understands and embraces diversity and radical inclusivity; for that reason we embrace and affirm the full inclusion of everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We explicitly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people who have been marginalized and diminished within the larger United Methodist tradition. We commit to embracing the responsibility of pushing for a more open and inclusive United Methodist Church.

You are welcome here. You are supported here. You are included here.

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Westwood Pastoral Staff

Rev. Molly Vetter (she/her), *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert (she/her)
Pastor of Children & Families

Sanctuary Music Leadership

Dr. Andrew Schultz (he/him), *Dir. of Sanctuary Music*
Josh Roebuck (he/him), *Organist*

Chancel Choir Section Leaders

Sabrina Langlois (she/her), *soprano*
Carmen Edano (she/her), *alto*
Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor*
Hsin-Yu Hung (he/him), *bass*

Guest Musicians

Madeline Andriesen (she/her), *alto*

Liturgists

Mary Garbesi (she/her)
Rev. Dr. John Holbert (he/him)
Tonia Symensma-Cohen (she/her)

Production Team

Richard An (he/him), *Videography & Sound*
Hsin-Hua Wang (she/her), *Videography & Sound*
Guillermo Gonzalez (he/him), *Videography*

Altar Flowers

~**In honor of Yinka Bamgbose on her birthday**,
with love from her children Bukola & Kunle, Rolake
& Justice, Sinmi & Robert, and Okerinola & Trini.

~With love by the Bamgbose family **in honor of
the first birthday and baptism of Jasmeen
Ayomide Bamgbose Whitaker.**

STAFF OUT TODAY

Maureen Schultz (she/her), *Production Manager*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The following people have requested prayer, or
others have requested prayers for them:

New Prayer Requests

- ◆ Jackie Ray

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- ◆ Rev. Cindy Williams & Family
- ◆ Donna Heidt & Family
- ◆ The Family of Noah Hazel
- ◆ John Brandt, *Penny Gipson's brother*
- ◆ Larry Owen
- ◆ Vickie Jacobs, *Taylor Jacob's mom*
- ◆ Kelly Penrose and New Baby Penrose
- ◆ Yinka Bamgbose
- ◆ Diane Symensma & Tonia Symensma-Cohen
- ◆ Alice Jackson, *Nancy Price's mother*
- ◆ Michael Kelly
- ◆ Cynthia Hinds
- ◆ David Chin & Jacquelyn Yeh
- ◆ Bridgette Lee & son, Luke
- ◆ Charles S.
- ◆ Beverly & Brydon Shirk
- ◆ The Veikune Family
- ◆ Coral Moore
- ◆ Nancy Hill
- ◆ Bonnie Crouch
- ◆ Jane Crail
- ◆ Jackie Vincent
- ◆ Kelly O'Brien
- ◆ The Abernethy Family
- ◆ Jim Agee

These requests are held in prayer by the pastoral staff
and by the prayer chain. You are encouraged to join
in praying for them by name.

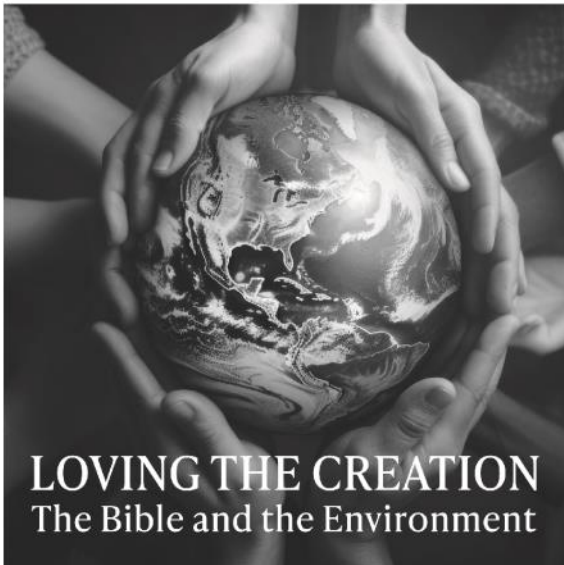
TODAY AT WESTWOOD CHURCH



THE LOFT

"Peace With the Earth" - Pastor Molly Vetter
Today, April 21st (10:30am) Upstairs in The Loft

Though our culture tends to teach and practice an approach to the natural world that seeks to control, tame, and extract resources, Jesus' teaching suggests a different way: he asks us to "consider the lilies," and learn from the birds. The Gospel beckons us toward a mutuality with the earth, honoring the integrity of creation.



WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

"Loving the Creation: The Bible and the Environment"
Rev. Dr. John Holbert
Today, April 21st (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom

Join Rev. Dr. John Holbert as we look closely at two Bible passages — Genesis 1:26-28 and Romans 8:18-22 — to gain at least a small understanding of what resources our Bible has to offer humanity as we face environmental challenges. Happy Earth Day!



18TH ANNUAL ORGAN CONCERT SERIES

Lukas Hasler, Concert Organist
Today, April 21st (3pm) Westwood Sanctuary & via Livestream

As the spring approaches, so does the first half of this year's organ concerts in their brand new format – two concerts in the spring, and two concerts in the fall. It is our hope that this will avoid the summer heat in our non air-conditioned sanctuary, and allow for more people to attend that may normally be absent during the summer holidays. Performed on the landmark Shaffer Memorial Organ and lasting about 60 minutes, our next concert will be presented by Lukas Hasler. Lukas is an Austrian concert organist who currently combines his doctoral study at USC with a busy and successful international performing and teaching schedule. Free admission (voluntary offering will be available). For more info, visit www.WestwoodUMC.org/Concerts.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



580 CAFE REFRESH!

Saturday, April 27th (1-3:30pm) 580 Hilgard Ave, LA

Refresh with us and spend a delightful afternoon at 580 Cafe. Enjoy dance, poetry, and musical performances by our 580 community. Art Auction showcasing the creativity of our students, past and present! Take a tour of our community reflection garden. Make a generous donation to 580 Cafe by going to www.WestwoodUMC.org/580Refresh.

This Wesley Foundation campus ministry serves UCLA, and is a part of our Westwood UMC family. We invite you to attend this open house event, and support this vibrant, faithful ministry.



FAMILY PARK PICNIC DAY

Sunday, April 28, 2024 (12:30pm)

Holmby Park (601 Comstock Ave., Los Angeles)

Bring your own picnic and enjoy a time with family and friends. Everyone welcome! For more information, contact Westley Garcia at westley@theloftla.org.



SIGN UP TO SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS

Ever thought about sponsoring the flowers on the altar? It's a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one, celebrate a special event or milestone, or just make the Sanctuary space more beautiful! Cost is \$85. You can even partner with a friend, committee, or other church group to help defray the cost.

For more info or to sign up for a specific Sunday, please contact Sabrina Simmons at 310.474.4511 or sabrina@westwoodumc.org.

WESTWOOD CHURCH

Rev. Molly Vetter.....Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter.....Associate Pastor/Pastor of The Loft
Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert.....Director of Children and Family Ministries
Everest Harvey.....Director of Youth & Social Justice Ministries
Deaconess Jeanne Roe Smith.....Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA
Dr. Andrew Schultz.....Sanctuary Music Director
Josh Roebuck.....Sanctuary Organist
Sabrina Langlois, Carmen Edano, Taylor Jacobs, & Hsin-Yu Hung.....Chancel Choir Section Leaders
Sabrina Simmons.....Office Manager
Maureen Schultz.....Digital Content Coordinator
Pablo Jauregui.....Facilities Manager
Julia Black.....Loft Music and Worship Director
Westley Garcia.....Director of Loft Connections
Deanna Edwards.....Children's Ministry Executive Assistant
Ruth Elin Drossel.....Children/Youth Choirs
Jaime Top.....Facilities Assistant
David Trotter.....Communications
Youth and Children's Ministry Staff: Fozieh Karimi, Ashley Kishibay, Emily Kishibay, Lesley Castillo, Waldina Guevara, Eva Hooten, Josie Hooten, and Uriya Simeon

West District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi
California-Pacific Annual Conference Bishop: Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank

The Sanctuary – 9:30am

A sacred gathering with traditional liturgy, a thoughtful message, and resounding organ.

More info: www.WestwoodUMC.org

The Loft – 10:30am

An innovative gathering with spiritual conversation, creativity, coffee, and music.

More info: www.TheLoftLA.org

Westwood Kids

Westwood Church has a vibrant Sunday morning Children's Ministry. Integrating biblical stories, music, art, and play, we are able to explore God's world using multiple teaching approaches. Join us in The Sanctuary at 9:30am with the children's choir following, and at 10:45am our biblical story time. Join our Westwood Kids email by contacting Pastor Diana Holbert at diana@westwoodumc.org.

Grapple Group

The Grapple Group provides a spiritual community for big questions for young people in grades 6-12. For more information, contact Everest Harvey, Director of Youth & Social Justice Ministries, at everest@westwoodumc.org.

Westwood Church
10497 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
(9am - 1pm)

Contact Us
wumc@westwoodumc.org
310.474.4511

