



The Sanctuary

January 19, 2025

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE

Dawn Hymn
Alan Hovhaness (1911-2000)

Peter Fennema
Organist

WORDS OF WELCOME

Diana Holbert

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

HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

**United Methodist Hymnal
No. 206**

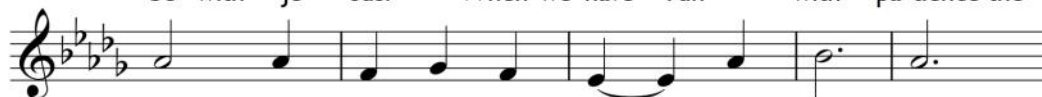
Please stand as you are able.



1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to
3. I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ. I want to



fol-low Je-sus. God set the stars to give light to the
look at Je-sus. Clear Sun of Righ-teous-ness, shine on my
be with Je-sus. When we have run with pa-tience the

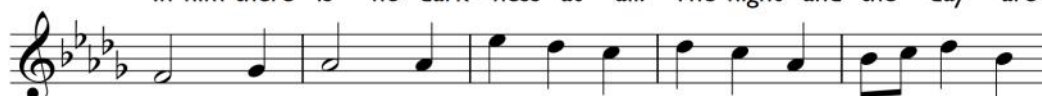


world. The star of my life is Je-sus.
path, and show me the way to the Fa-ther.
race, we shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the day are



both a-like. The Lamb is the light of the cit-y of



God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

MORNING PRAYER

Jo Schiff

Please be seated.

*Perfect Light of revelation,
as you shone in the life of Jesus,
whose epiphany we celebrate,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.
Amen.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Diana Holbert

THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

**The Faith We Sing
No. 2223**

I. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re- stored:
Refrain
And they'll know we are Chris- tians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll
know we are Chris- tians by our love._____

Words: Peter Scholtes (John 12:34-35; Eph. 4:4-6)
Music: ST. BRENDAN'S, Peter Scholtes
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SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 62:1-5

John Holbert

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be

termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

**The Faith We Sing
No. 2223**

2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
Refrain
And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll
know we are Chris-tians by our love._____

SCRIPTURE READING

I Corinthians 12:1-11

Diana Holbert

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
Refrain
And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll
know we are Chris - tians by our love.

SERMON

We Are Meant to Shine

Diana Holbert


 THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO PRAYER

Choral Cistercien
Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Peter Fennema

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD

Tonia Symensma-Cohen

After each invitation and a moment of silence, the leader will say, "We pray to God," and you are invited to respond, "**Lord, hear our prayer.**"

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.**

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.WestwoodUMC.org/Give.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Who at My Door is Standing
K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

Winter Choir

*Who at my door is standing,
Patiently drawing near,
Entrance within demanding?
Whose is the voice I hear?*

*Lonely without He's staying:
Lonely within am I;
While I am still delaying,
Will He not pass me by? (Refrain)*

*Refrain: Sweetly the tones are falling;
"Open the door for me!
If thou wilt heed My calling,
I will abide with thee."*

*All through the dark hours dreary,
Knocking again is He;
Jesus, art Thou not weary,
Waiting so long for me? (Refrain)*

*Door of my heart, I hasten!
Thee will I open wide.
Though He rebuke and chasten,
He shall with me abide. (Refrain)*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

UM Hymnal
No. 94

Please stand as you are able.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be-
low: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God, the source of all our
gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Ho-ly
Spirit! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
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THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE

HYMN

We Are All One in Mission

Presbyterian Hymnal

No. 435

Please stand as you are able.



1. We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,
2. We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name;
3. Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
our min - is - tries are dif - ferent, our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing word.



A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace
We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - ery folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

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Music: Memmingen ms., 17th century, Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904, Rusty Edwards, 1986; alt.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diana Holbert

Please be seated.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude on "O Filii et Filiae"

Peter Fennema

Please remain seated.

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Guest Preacher

Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert

Sanctuary Music Leadership

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

Chancel Choir Section Leader

Temple Hammen (she/her), *soprano*
Carmen Edano (she/her), *alto*
Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor*
Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*

Liturgists

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

Production Team

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

Flowers on the Altar

Given by Kelly O'Brien "for my daughter, CindyLou,
on her birthday."

STAFF OUT TODAY

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

New Requests

- Wayne Koupal
- All those affected by the recent wildfires in Pacific Palisades and Eaton Canyon

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- Christina Stevens
- Terry Hall
- Nancy Taylor
- Laquetta Willis
- Cindy Ball & daughter, Harley Hunkapillar
- Bob & Tracy Mesrop
- Charles & Ruby Simmons
- John Brandt
- Yinka Bamgbose
- Beverly & Brydon Shirk
- The Veikune Family
- Coral Moore
- Nancy Hill
- Bonnie Crouch
- Jackie Vincent
- The Abernethy Family
- Jim Agee
- The people of Russia, Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Myanmar, and the Sudan.

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

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.

TODAY AT WESTWOOD CHURCH



REV. DR. DIANA HOLBERT

We are grateful to welcome Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert to our pulpit today. For the past five years, after her retirement from fulltime ministry, Diana has served as our Children and Family Minister. We are grateful for her continued involvement in our community, and her willingness to share her gifts in the pulpit today.



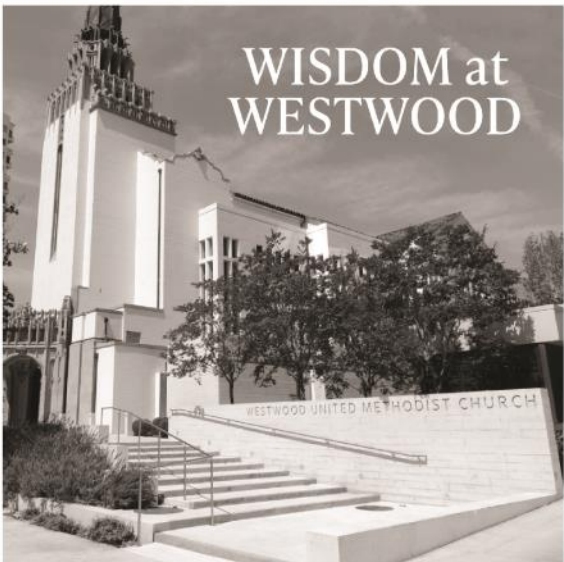
THE LOFT

Today, January 19th (10:30am) The Loft

"Mary: The Revolutionary"

Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is often portrayed in art as a meek, mild-mannered woman who happens to be Jesus' mother. However, a closer look at her words in the Gospels reveals someone who sought to upend oppressive regimes and uplift the poor and oppressed. How might reimagining Mary as a revolutionary inform how we think about the radical teachings of her Son?



WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

"A Discussion on Church Finances" - Jerry Whittemore
Today, January 19th (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom

Join Jerry Whittemore for a presentation on the long, complex saga of church and clergy financing from the Bronze Age (Deuteronomy 16) to the 21st century.

NEXT SUNDAY

"Tracing the Footsteps of Immigration: An Historical and Current Legal Perspective." - Dr. John Richardson

Wildfire Updates

We continue to pray for everyone impacted by the wind and fires in Southern California and specifically for...

- **For congregation members who are currently evacuated from their homes.** We are aware of a few church families who have lost their homes, as well as extended family of our church members who have lost homes. Please hold them in your prayers. To our knowledge, they all have a place to stay in the present moment. We will be available for needs that arise in coming weeks and months. If you are aware of a need for assistance, please let us know. We have a list of people who have volunteered to offer short-term housing to others who are displaced.
- **The buildings for two churches in our Conference, Altadena UMC and Community UMC of Pacific Palisades,** were both lost to fires on Wednesday. We know that too many others in our congregations and communities have also lost their homes. Our prayers are with everyone as they grieve. God, please draw close to them.

MONETARY DONATIONS

Our UMC Conference has set up a special fund - the Los Angeles Fires Recovery Fund - where you can contribute directly towards relief and recovery from the effects of the winds and firestorms this week.

You are welcome to contribute through Westwood UMC (mark your donation "LA Fires") or give directly at www.calpacumc.org/donate.

We celebrate that **we have already received over \$12,000** that we are forwarding on to the Los Angeles Fires Recovery Fund from your donations through the church.

OUR CHURCH is exploring ways that we can use our building to offer needed space to others. We look forward to share more details in coming days.

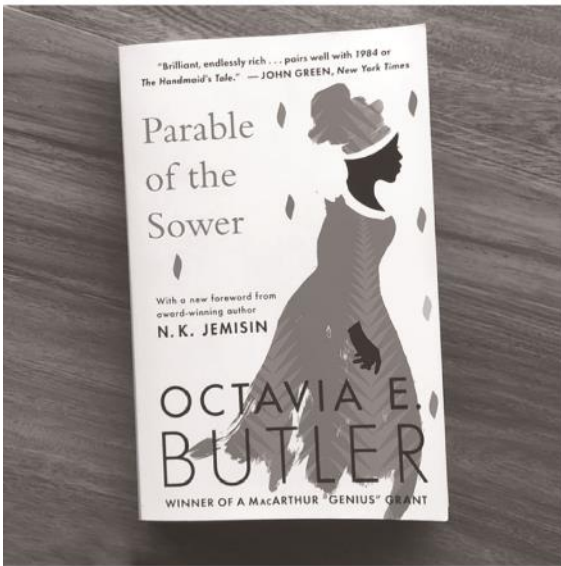


Due to the Los Angeles fires, several **PATH** interim and affordable housing sites have been evacuated, and their teams are working to relocate individuals and families. They are also providing resources to those who have to shelter in place. **PATH urgently needs donations** of N95 masks, blankets, bottled water, pet food (dogs & cats), and non-perishable food of any kind.

Drop Off Location: PATH Metro Villas, 340 N Madison Ave, LA 90004

More Locations to Donate and Volunteer: www.WestwoodUMC.org/fireresources

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



"PARABLE OF THE SOWER" FIVE-WEEK READING GROUP **In Person Group - Tuesdays (11am) Carter Home** **Online Group - Wednesdays (7:30pm) via Zoom**

In 1993, Octavia Butler wrote *Parable of The Sower*, a novel set in 2024 Los Angeles that, in many ways, predicted the current state of our national politics and our environmental crisis. *Parable of the Sower* won multiple awards and in 2021 was recognized as one of the top 125 Science Fiction novels of the last 125 years by the New York Times. If you are interested in participating, please email Rev. Dr. Carter at christopher@theloftla.org.



PATH BREAKFAST MINISTRY **Saturday, January 25th at PATH West LA** **4th Saturday of Each Month**

We prepare and serve breakfast at PATH West LA (Cotner & Pico) to 30+ male veterans who live at this location. Arriving at 6am, part of the team shops at Smart & Final (directly across the street), and the other team members get things started in the kitchen. Menus is open to change, but often includes scrambled eggs, bacon, some baked bread (biscuits, cornbread), fruit salad, and donuts. Breakfast is served promptly at 7 am. (Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age.) Sign up by contacting Everest Harvey at everest@westwoodmc.org.



WOMEN IN FAITH VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON **Saturday, February 15th (11am) Westwood Church**

Join Women in Faith for a Valentine's Luncheon where we will have a short program followed by a potluck lunch. All are invited to join in the fun and fellowship. We will announce the location in the church closer to the date.

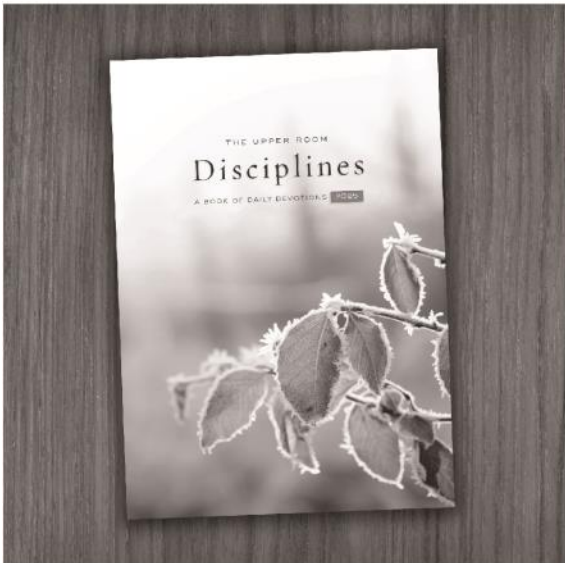
RSVP to Betty Holden at 310.770.3156.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



SPONSOR SUNDAY 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 \$95. 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 sabrina@westwoodumc.org or 310.474.4511.



UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES DEVOTIONAL AVAILABLE

We have copies of the 2025 Upper Room Disciplines available in the church office. This devotional offers daily readings and reflections. Unlike in previous years, for 2025 this devotional includes the whole year; pick one up in January and use it all year! We are happy to make them available to our congregation for no cost - as long as supplies last.



MUTUAL AID RESPONSE TEAM

Mutual aid is an opportunity for us to build genuine community with each other by supporting each other with our time and talents. All it requires is for us to be open to receiving help and to be willing to help another as we are able. In order for this system of Mutual Aid to work, we need people to sign up to be on the Mutual Aid Response Team.

If you would like to join the response team, go to www.WestwoodUMC.org/MutualAidTeam and click on "ask to join the group," and you will be notified whenever there is a request. If you, or someone you know is in need of aid, please have them complete the Mutual Aid Request Form at www.WestwoodUMC.org/MutualAid.

WESTWOOD CHURCH

Rev. Molly Vetter.....Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter.....Associate Pastor/Pastor of The Loft
Dr. Deanna Edwards.....Interim Director of Children & Families
Everest Harvey.....Director of Youth & Social Justice Ministries
Deaconess Jeanne Roe Smith.....Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA
Dr. Andrew Schultz.....Sanctuary Music Director
Peter Fennema.....Organist
Carmen Edano, Temple Hammen, Taylor Jacobs, Byron Jones.....Chancel Choir Section Leaders
Sabrina Simmons.....Office Manager
Pablo Jauregui.....Facilities Manager
Julia Black.....Loft Music and Worship Director
Westley Garcia.....Director of Loft Connections
Hsin-Hua Wang.....Children/Youth Choirs
Jaime Top.....Facilities Assistant
David Trotter.....Communications
Youth & Children's Ministry Staff: Beverly Bell, Fozieh Karimi, Ashley Kishibay, Emily Kishibay, Lesley Castillo, Waldina Guevara, and Uriya Simeon

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



Today's Worship Guide

To access a digital version, use the QR code or visit www.WestwoodUMC.org/Livestream.

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