



everything [in] between rest & growth

March 23, 2025

3rd Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

"3. Berceuse" from 8 Pieces, Op. 39
Reinhold Glière (1875-1956)

Michelle Sheehy, violin
Osheen Manukyan, cello

WORDS OF WELCOME

Molly Vetter
Senior Pastor

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

LENTEN INTROIT

"Kyrie" from L'Homme Armé
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c1525-1594)

Sanctuary Singers
Sacred Dancers

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

HYMN

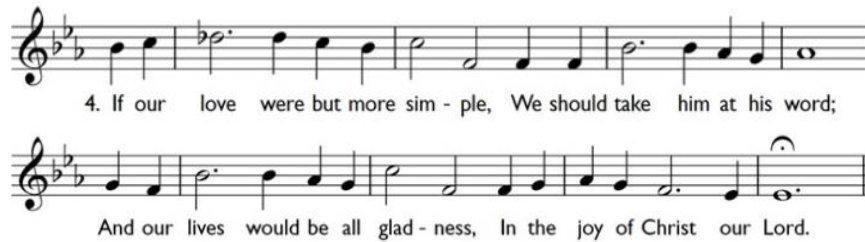
Please stand as you are able.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

New English Praise Hymnal
No.700, vs. 1,3,4

1. There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy Like the wide - ness of the
3. There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion In the blood that has been
sea; There's a kind - ness in his jus - tice Which is
shed; There is joy for all the mem - bers In the
more than li - ber - ty. There is no place where earth's
sor - rows of the head. There is grace e - nough for
sor - rows Are more felt than up in heaven: There is
thou - sands Of new worlds as great as this: There is
no place where earth's fail - ings Have such kind - ly judge - ment given. Organ interlude
room for fresh cre - a - tions In that up - per home of bliss.

(hymn continues on the next page)



Words: Maurice Bevan (b. 1921)
Music: CORVEDALE; Cathedral Music Ltd. (New English Praise Hymnal, No. 700)
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MORNING PRAYER

Mary Garbesi

Please be seated.

*Creator God,
Your Word is like soil, something we can root ourselves in.
Your Word is like the sun, big enough to touch everything with its warmth.
And your Word is like a gardener, a love that prunes
and encourages, waters and delights, seeds and tends.
So as we turn to your text today,
warm our bones, tend to our broken pieces,
and show us how to grow.
With hope we pray, Amen.*

~Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

CHILDREN'S TIME

Molly Vetter

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Molly Vetter

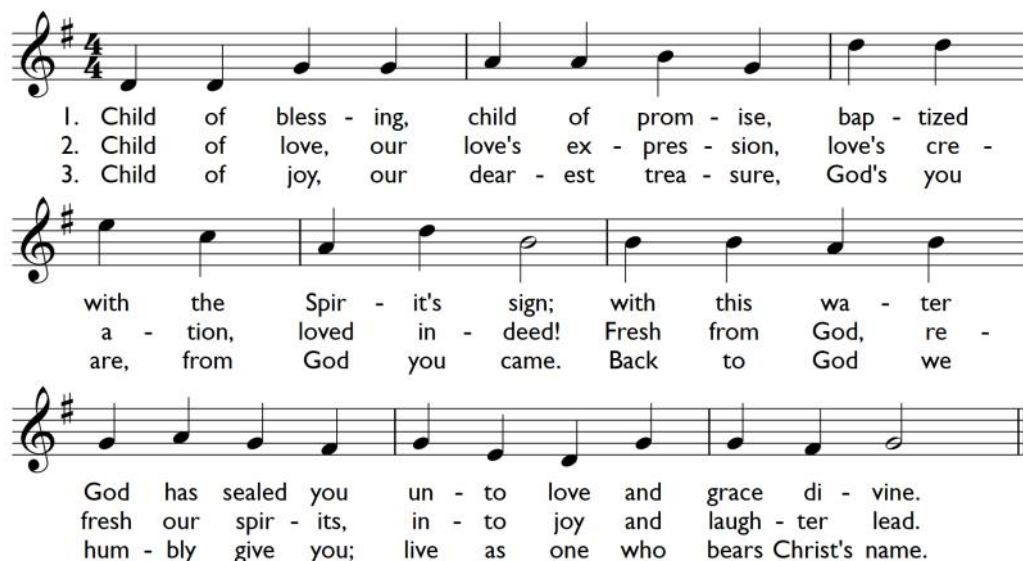
Jenniffer Duran-West, Lay Leader

Luke James Lee

Parents: Julie (née Heidt) and Eric Lee
Grandparents & sponsors: John and Donna Heidt

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 he may grow in trust of God,
and be found faithful in service to others.
We will pray for him to be a true disciple
who walks in the way that leads to life.**



1. Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
2. Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -
3. Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you

with the Spir - it's sign; with this wa - ter
a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re -
are, from God you came. Back to God we

God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.

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

A WORD FROM THE WORLD

Dick Sun

“For When Rest Feels Like a Risk” from *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*
Cole Arthur Riley

A Prayer to Our Rested God:

We want more than a life lived exhausted.

*That you have woven healing rhythms of rest into our minds and bodies
reminds us we are worthy of habitual restoration.*

*Keep us from apologizing for our own healing, that we would know that when we pause or rest,
we are restoring not only our own bodies but the very condition of a world held captive by greed and utility.*

We grow weary of societies who view us as more machine than human, more product than soul.

The fear that we won't survive without overworking stalks our days.

*Liberate us from the depraved socioeconomic structures that require that the poor and vulnerable
sacrifice their own rest at the altar of survival and opportunity.*

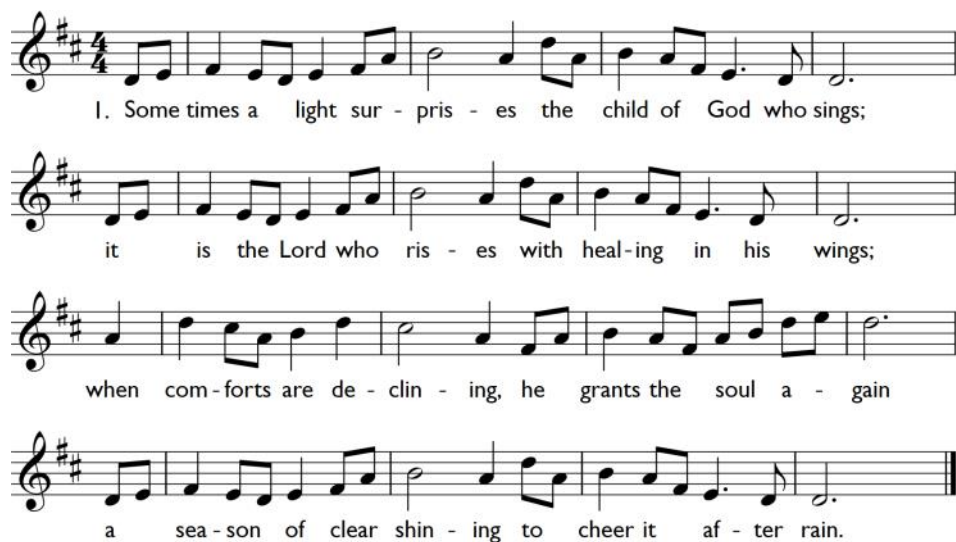
Protect us from fear as we rest with you, breathe with you.

*Remind us that the beauty and paradox of our humanness
is that we were made to close our eyes, that we might see.*

May it be so.

May God add wisdom to this word from our world.

Amen.



Words: William Cowper, 1779, alt.
Music: SALLEY GARDENS; Irish folk melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011
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SCRIPTURE READING

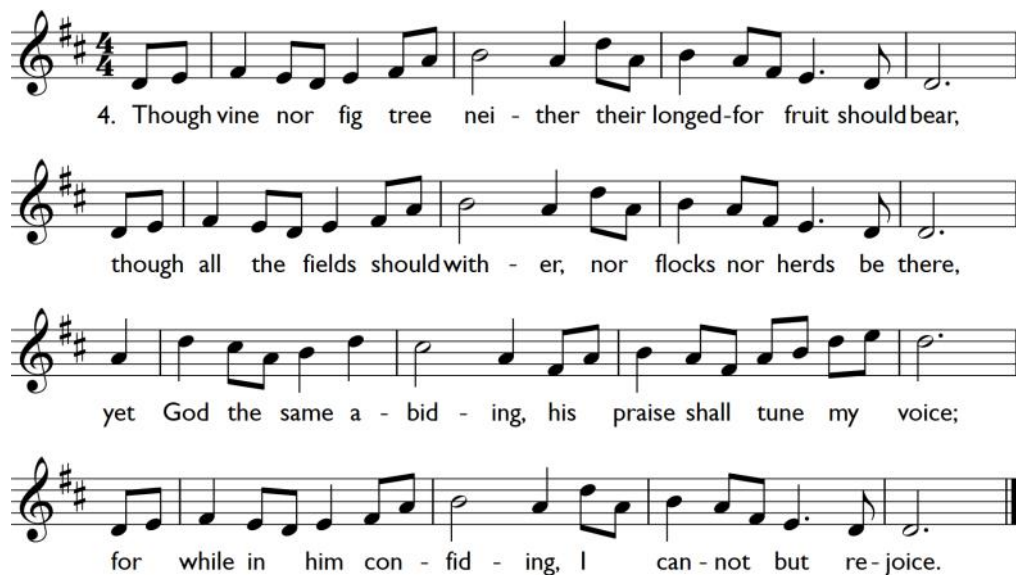
Luke 13:6-9

Molly Vetter

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

Thanks be to God.





THE COMMUNITY **RESPONDS** TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO PRAYER

Beneath the Soil

Sanctuary Singers

George Kirbye (c. 1565-1634); text by Anna Strickland

*Beneath the soil in the dark
There's growth too slow to see
A transformation not displayed
In branches, fruit, and leaves*

*Remember when the world demands
More than you can produce
We each grow at a different pace
And growth starts in the roots*

*In every season of our lives
The Spirit is at work
To nurture us to bear good fruit
While rooted in the earth*

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD

Tanya Sun

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.WestwoodUMC.org/Give**.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Laetatus Sum
Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Violin, Cello, Organ
Chancel Choir

*Laetatus sum in his quae dicta sunt mihi:
In donum Domini ibimus.*

I rejoiced at the words which are spoken unto me:
“We shall go into the house of the Lord.”

*Stantes erant pedes nostri,
in atriis tuis Jerusalem.*

Our feet were standing
in your courts, O Jerusalem.

*Jerusalem, quae aedificatur ut civitas:
cujus participatio ejus in id ipsum.*

Jerusalem, which is built like a city
the parts of which are joined together.

*Illuc enim ascenderunt tribus,
tribus Domini: testimonium Israel
ad confitendum nomini Domini.
Quia illic sederunt sedes in judicio,
sedes super donum David.
Rogate quae ad pacem sunt Jerusalem:
Et abundantia diligentibus te.
Fiat pax in virtute tua:
et abundantia in turribus tuis.
Propter fratres meos et proximos meos,
Loquar pacem de te:
Propter donum Domini Dei nostri,
quaesivi bona tibi.*

For whither the tribes ascended,
the tribes of the Lord: Israel's covenant
is to profess the name of the Lord.
Because there the thrones have sat in judgement,
the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem,
ask abundance for those that love you.
May there be peace within you
and abundance within your walls.
For the sake of my brothers and neighbors,
I have spoken peace unto you;
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I have sought good for you.

*Gloria Patri, et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio,
et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.*

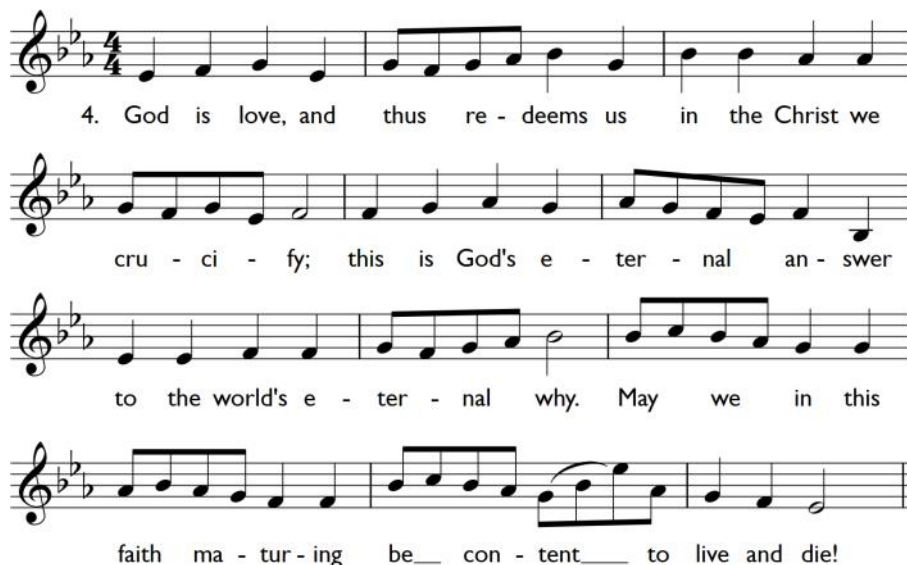
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

When Our Confidence Is Shaken

UM Hymnal
No. 505

Please stand as you are able.

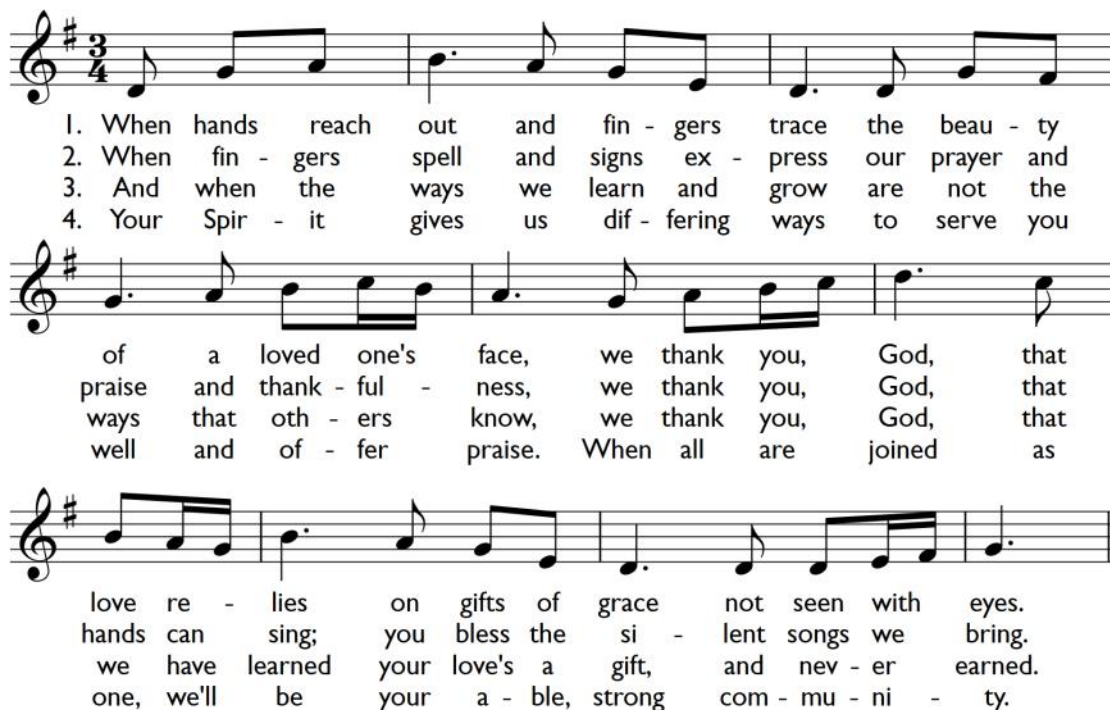


4. God is love, and thus re - deems us in the Christ we
cru - ci - fy; this is God's e - ter - nal an - swer
to the world's e - ter - nal why. May we in this
faith ma - tur - ing be con - tent to live and die!

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1971; © 1971 Hope Publishing Co.
Music: GRAFTON; from *Chants Ordinaires de l'office divin*, 1881; harm. from The English Hymnal, 1906
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THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE

HYMN

*When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace***Glory to God Hymnal
No. 302***Please remain standing as you are able.*


1. When hands reach out and fin - gers trace the beau - ty
 2. When fin - gers spell and signs ex - press our prayer and
 3. And when the ways we learn and grow are not the
 4. Your Spir - it gives us dif - fering ways to serve you

of a loved one's face, we thank you, God, that
 praise and thank - ful - ness, we thank you, God, that
 ways that oth - ers know, we thank you, God, that
 well and of - fer praise. When all are joined as

love re - lies on gifts of grace not seen with eyes.
 hands can sing; you bless the si - lent songs we bring.
 we have learned your love's a gift, and nev - er earned.
 one, we'll be your a - ble, strong com - mu - ni - ty.

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2001

Music: O WYLY WYLY; English folk melody, harm. John Weaver, 1988

Text ©2001 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette; Music harm ©1990 Hope Publishing Co.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Molly Vetter

Please be seated.

A FAREWELL BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Double Concerto in A Minor - Allegro

Peter Fennema

Please remain seated.

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741); transcribed by J.S. Bach

Organ



Today's guest musicians are made possible by the Friends of Sanctuary Music Fund. If you would like to make a donation, please scan the QR code or go to www.westwoodumc.org/FriendsOfMusic.



PARTICIPATING TODAY

Pastoral Staff

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

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*
Jeremy Sarmiento (he/him), *choral scholar*
Max Weitzman (he/him), *choral scholar*

Sacred Dancers

Isabel Kilroe (*choreographer*), Jenniffer Duran-West,
Kimberly Britts, and Hsin-Hua Wang

Liturgists

Jenniffer Duran-West and Mary Garbesi (she/her)
Dick Sun (he/him) & Tanya Sun (she/her)

Production Team

Richard An (he/him), *Videography & Sound*
Guillermo Gonzalez (he/him), *Videography*
Elijah Reynolds (he/him), *Videography*

Altar Flowers

Given by Martin & Beverly Clajus *in honor of*
Martin's mother, whose 90th birthday is this week.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

New Requests

- Eunice, a friend of Nancy Griffin

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- Allison Arnold
- Beverly Clajus' brother
-in-law
- Carol Collins & Family
on the death of Jim
- Beverly Bell
- Leslie Castillo
- Bette Caldwell
- Charles, Sabrina, and
Ruby Simmons
- Penny Gipson & Family
- Joyce Wu & Michael
Javalera
- Gregg Hesling
- Sherry Burch
- Patrick, Megan, and
Pat Bird
- Rhonda K. Lawrence
- Laquetta Willis
- Beverly & Brydon
Shirk
- Nancy Hill
- Bonnie Crouch
- Coral Moore
- Jackie Vincent
- Jim Agee
- Christina Stevens &
Family
- All those affected by
the recent wildfires in
Pacific Palisades and
Eaton Canyon
- 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

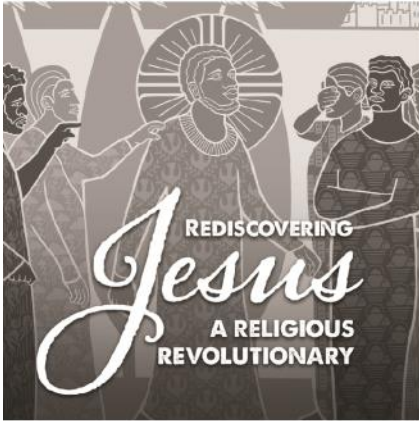
Westwood Church is a Christian community that welcomes all people and focuses on becoming and making disciples committed to justice, kindness and walking humbly with God. We welcome and affirm our ministry with all persons, regardless of age, race, ethnic origin, economic status, ability, gender, marital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

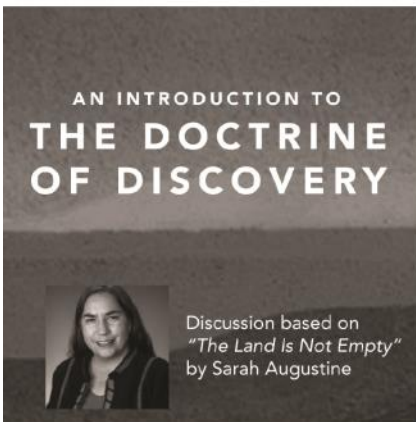
You are welcome here. You are supported here. You are included here.

TODAY AT WESTWOOD CHURCH



THE LOFT - "Jesus & His Neighbors" - Rev. Stephanie Rice Today, March 23rd (10:30am) The Loft

From the outset of his public ministry, Jesus includes disciples within his inner circle whom his Jewish contemporaries believed did not deserve a seat at the table. When questioned by a lawyer about one person's moral obligations to another, Jesus begins and ends a parable with the question, "Who is my neighbor?" In our increasingly polarized political and theological climate, many of our physical neighbors are strangers to us, and some whom we work beside or even love can feel like strangers. Given this, perhaps the important questions for us to ask ourselves are not only who our neighbors are but also whether we are acting as good neighbors ought to. Rev. Stephanie Rice, Associate Pastor at Glendale First United Methodist Church will lead this Sunday while Rev. Dr. Carter is on vacation.



WISDOM AT WESTWOOD: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY Today, March 23rd (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom

Nancy Price and Mary Garbesi will present the history and dehumanizing impact of the Doctrine of Discovery on indigenous people past and present. Our discussion will be based on "The Land Is Not Empty" by Sarah Augustine who will be with us via Zoom to discuss her experience as an Indigenous woman and answer questions raised by our previous weeks of learning. March 30th will be devoted to summarizing and further discussion on the topic.



LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

This lenten season, between Ash Wednesday on March 5th and Easter Sunday on April 20th, we invite you to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers. We invite you to use this devotional to engage in the weekly art and reflections at your own pace, imagining where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between. Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year's Lenten devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices.

Pick up a copy at church today or access online at www.westwoodumc.org/lent2025.



NEW BOOK GROUP: THE BOOK OF LONGINGS

Starting in April, the next book group will be diving into "The Book of Longings" by Sue Monk Kidd, a feminist reimagining of the New Testament. It follows a fictionalized Galilean scribe named Ana who becomes the wife of Jesus during the lost years, commenting on the silencing of women across history and literature.

To sign up, contact Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter at christopher@theloftla.org.

EASTER at WESTWOOD



SPONSOR EASTER FLOWERS



SPONSOR EASTER FLOWERS

Deadline - Tuesday, April 15th

This Easter, the Sanctuary and Narthex will once again be decorated with beautiful flower arrangements and flowering plants. All are welcome and invited to sponsor flowers in honor, memory, or celebration of loved ones or events. Three large arrangements (\$200 each), to be placed in the Chancel, are available to be given by individual donors or groups of donors. Donations of \$20 and up will make possible the other flowering plants for the day. All dedications will be printed in the worship guide on Easter morning.

Scan the QR code to donate and then email Sabrina Simmons at sabrina@westwoodumc.org with the wording of your dedication.

PALM SUNDAY

PALM SUNDAY IN THE SANCTUARY

Sunday, April 13th (9:30am) The Sanctuary

"Everything In Between Shouting and Silence" - Rev. Molly Vetter

Wave palm branches and sing "Hosanna" as we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem; little children will lead the procession. When the religious leaders try to silence the crowd, Jesus tells them that the noise level isn't the point—even the stones would cry out if they were silent. It takes wisdom to know when our voice is needed and when it's just noise.

Our Westwood Kids Choir will join the Chancel Choir for a special Palm Sunday anthem, too. On Palm Sunday, we invite ALL our children to be a part of our Palm procession! In the Sanctuary Gathering, meet up in the back of the sanctuary so we can walk in together during the first hymn. Parents & grandparents are encouraged to walk with us!

PALM SUNDAY IN THE LOFT

Sunday, April 13th (10:30am) The Loft

On Palm Sunday at 10:30am in The Loft, our pilgrimage journey takes a turn, as we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Join us this Sunday as we explore how we might practice living with a sense of purpose.

MAUNDY THURSDAY CONTEMPLATIVE SOUND BATH

MAUNDY THURSDAY CONTEMPLATIVE SOUND BATH

Thursday, April 17th (8:15-9pm) The Sanctuary and via Livestream

Join us for a contemplative experience that offers an evening prayer liturgy brought to life with a healing sound bath. Drawing from Christian Tenebrae traditions, the service will lead us into the darkness of holy week and give us an opportunity to contemplate the depth of divine love. Led by Ruth Sie and Pastor Molly Vetter, this experience brings gifts of a meditative sound bath into the sacred beauty of our sanctuary. Please wear comfortable clothes; you are welcome to sit or lie in our pews or bring a mat to lie on the floor.



GOOD FRIDAY IN THE LOFT

GOOD FRIDAY IN THE LOFT

Friday, April 18th (6:30-7:30pm) The Loft

We invite you to join us in The Loft for our Good Friday service as we reflect on the significance of Jesus' pilgrimage to the cross. All people, including children are welcome in The Loft gathering, too. While there is not dedicated childcare, there is an area within The Loft space that includes activities for children.

EASTER SUNDAY

EASTER SUNDAY IN THE SANCTUARY

Sunday, April 20th (9am & 11am) The Sanctuary

"Everything In Between Grief and Hope" - Rev. Molly Vetter

Join us to celebrate Easter with trumpet fanfare and a joyful procession in our beautiful sanctuary, to claim courageous hope. We invite you to join us to sing resurrection hymns and to hear a word that speaks hope into our deepest grief -- about a love that triumphs over death. With beloved traditions and pageantry, we get to proclaim the bold, good news of God's love for all of us here, now. The good news of this story is that no matter how you arrive this Easter morning—whether you are steeped in grief, stunned in disbelief, or running in the direction of hope—resurrection is for you. This story is for you. Children are welcome in our Sanctuary Gathering, and we have kids worship activity kits available. During our "Time with Children", we invite young people to come forward for a lesson with Pastor Molly; afterwards, they'll return to their pews to sit with you. On-site childcare is available for children birth through age 4.

EASTER SUNDAY IN THE LOFT

Sunday, April 20th (11am) The Loft

We invite you to join our Loft community in the Sanctuary for an Easter Sunday Celebration featuring the Singers of Soul Gospel Choir as we reflect on the hope we find in the resurrection of Jesus. Children are welcome in The Loft gathering as Easter is an especially meaningful time to worship together. We will have kids worship activity kits that you can pick up on your way in, just in case they need a little distraction during worship. Additionally, there will be a kids area in the back of the sanctuary for those who need a little more space to wiggle or parents who want to sit on the floor with their kids. On-site childcare is also available for children from birth through age 4.

EASTER TEA PARTY

EASTER FAMILY TEA PARTY

Sunday, April 20th (10-11am) Church Courtyard

Join us for a free Easter Tea Party with tasty treats and conversation with our community. (Fancy hats optional.) You can also join us in the playground area for children's Easter crafts and activities, and a chance to visit real, live bunnies in our Easter bunny petting zoo! Parents should plan to join their children in the activities. Thanks to our Grapple group and our Westwood Kids Team for hosting these activities! **Scan the QR code to sign up to bring food (think finger foods, tea sandwiches, fruits, pastries) and volunteer to arrange floral table decorations on Saturday, April 19th (10am-12noon).**



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 and Children's Ministry Staff: Beverly Bell, Fozieh Karimi, Ashley Kishibay, Emily Kishibay, Lesley Castillo, Waldina Guevara, Eva Hooten, 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