



The Sanctuary

May 4, 2025

3rd Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

Chant de Mai (Song of May)
Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

Peter Fennema

WORDS OF WELCOME

Molly Vetter

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

HYMN

Please stand as you are able.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**United Methodist Hymnal
No. 139**

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a -
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend
4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nour - ish thy life and re - store

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal - va -
thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend
thee, fit - ting thee well for the tasks that are ev - er be - fore

tion! All ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw
thee. Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can
thee. Then to thy need God as a moth - er doth

near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
speed, spread - ing the wings of grace o'er thee.

Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; sts. 1, 5 trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863 st. 2 by S. Paul Schilling, 1986;
st. 4 by Rupert E. Davies, 1983 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665
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MORNING PRAYER

Chloe Sun

Please be seated.

*You break in, O God, on the road to Emmaus.
You break in, O God, exactly when we don't believe
you break in, O God, and change everything*

*You break in, O God with a call,
you break in, O God with a revelation,
you break in, O God with the truth*

*You break in, O God with a new realm
You break in, O God with a new world
You break in, O God with your intent for the future*

*God, break in again and call us to be your workers
God, break in again and use the gifts we are to build your realm
God, break in again and change our world once more.*

~ by Roddy Hamilton, adapt.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Molly Vetter

THE COMMUNITY **INTERACTS** WITH THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

**The Faith We Sing
No. 2008**



The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "I. Let all things now liv-ing a song of thanks - giv-ing to God the Cre-a-tor tri - um-phant-ly raise, who fash-ioned and made us, pro-tect-ed and stayed us, who guides us and leads to the end of our days. God's ban-ners fly o'er us; God's light goes be - fore us, a pil-lar of fire shin-ing forth in the night, till shad-ows have van-ished and dark-ness is ban-ished, as for-ward we trav-el from light in - to light." The score consists of six staves of music, each with a line of lyrics underneath. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

I. Let all things now liv-ing a song of thanks - giv-ing to God the Cre-
a-tor tri - um-phant-ly raise, who fash-ioned and made us, pro-tect-ed and
stayed us, who guides us and leads to the end of our days. God's
ban-ners fly o'er us; God's light goes be - fore us, a pil-lar of
fire shin-ing forth in the night, till shad-ows have van-ished and dark-ness is
ban-ished, as for-ward we trav-el from light in - to light.

Praise the Lord!
 Praise God in his sanctuary;
 praise God in his mighty firmament!
 Praise God for his mighty deeds;
 praise God for his exceeding greatness!
 Praise God with trumpet sound;
 praise God with lute and harp!
 Praise God with tambourine and dance;
 praise God with strings and pipe!
 Praise God with sounding cymbals;
 praise God with loud clashing cymbals!
 Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
 Praise the Lord!

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

HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

The Faith We Sing
 No. 2008

2. The law God en - forc-es, the stars in their cours-es and sun in its
 or-bit o - be-dient-ly shine; the hills and the moun-tains, the riv-ers and
 foun-tains, the deeps of the o - cean pro - claim the Di - vine. We,
 too, should be voic-ing our love and re - joic-ing; with glad ad - o -
 ra - tion a song let us raise, till all things now liv - ing u -
 nite in thanks - giv-ing: To God in the high-est ho - san-na and praise!

Words: Katherine K. Davis (Exod. 13:21; Ps. 148: 150:6); © 1938, 1966 E. C. Schirmer
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, trad. Welsh melody
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SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 1:4-8

Molly Vetter

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

*Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him,
and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.*

So it is to be. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Revelation of Hope - The Alpha and The Omega

Molly Vetter

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

CALL TO PRAYER *Le Jardin Suspendu (The Hanging Garden) (excerpt)*
Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Peter Fennema

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD

Jeanne Roe Smith
Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation

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**.



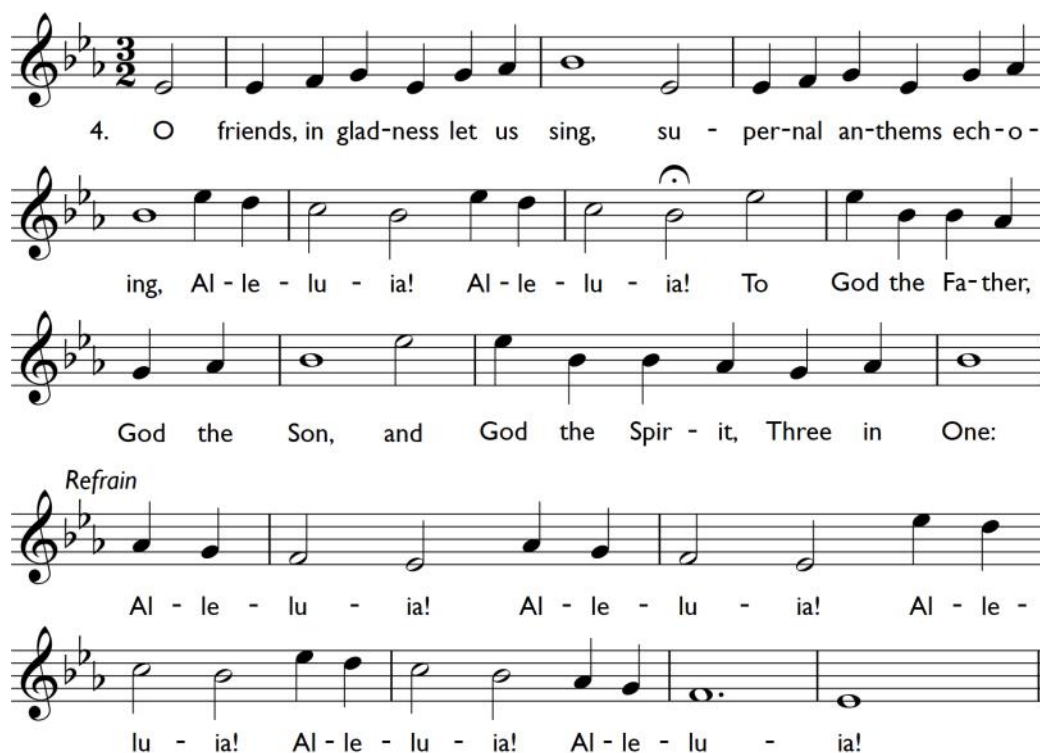
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Salmo 150
Ernani Aguiar (b. 1949)

Chancel Choir

*Laudate Dominum in sanctis ejus:
Laudate eum in firmamento virtutis ejus.
Laudate eum in virtutibus ejus:
Laudate eum secundum
multitudinem magnitudinis ejus.
Laudate eum in sono tubae:
Laudate eum in psalterio et cithara.
Laudate eum in tympano et choro:
Laudate eum in chordis et organo.
Laudate eum in cymbalis benesonantibus:
Laudate eum in cymbalis jubilationis:
omnis spiritus laudet Dominum.*

Praise the Lord in his sacred places,
praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him for his mighty acts,
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him with the sound of the trumpet,
Praise him with the psaltery and the harp.
Praise him with the tibrel and the dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.
Praise him with high-sounding cymbals,
Praise him with cymbals of joy.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

OFFERTORY RESPONSE**Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones****UM Hymnal
No.90***Please stand as you are able.*


4. O friends, in glad-ness let us sing, su - per-nal an-thems ech-o -
ing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To God the Fa-ther,
God the Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:
Refrain
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: John Athelstan Laurie Riley © 1906
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge © 1623
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INVITATION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE**Molly Vetter***Please stand as you are able.*

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,

**we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

All pray in silence.

*Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!*

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God.
Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Molly Vetter & Jeanne Roe Smith

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give thanks to God, concluding with: with communities all around the world and with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of Power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

We recall Christ's salvation and the institution of the Lord's Supper, concluding with: In union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the Spirit's presence in the bread and cup that we share, giving thanks for this divine presence, concluding with: Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jeanne Roe Smith

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.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Molly Vetter

COMMUNION

Communion is open to all people. You are invited to come forward as the ushers guide your row; please receive the bread and dip it into the cup. Gluten free bread is available. If you would like to be served in your seat, please send word to the ushers as they come to your row.



MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

O Come and Dwell in Me

United Methodist Hymnal
No. 388



1. O come and dwell in me, Spir - it of power with
2. Has - ten the joy - ful day which shall my sins con-
3. I want the wit - ness, Lord, that all I do is
4. I ask no high - er state; in - dulse me but in
in, and bring the glo - rious lib - er - ty from
sume, when old things shall be done a - way, and
right, ac - cord - ing to thy mind and word, well -
this, and soon or la - ter then trans - late to
sor - row, fear, and sin.
all things new be - come.
pleas - ing in thy sight.
thine e - ter - nal bliss.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1762 (2. Cor. 3:17; 5:17; Heb. 11:5)
Music: ST. MICHAEL; Genevan Psalter, 1551;
adapt. by William Crotch, 1836
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jeanne Roe Smith

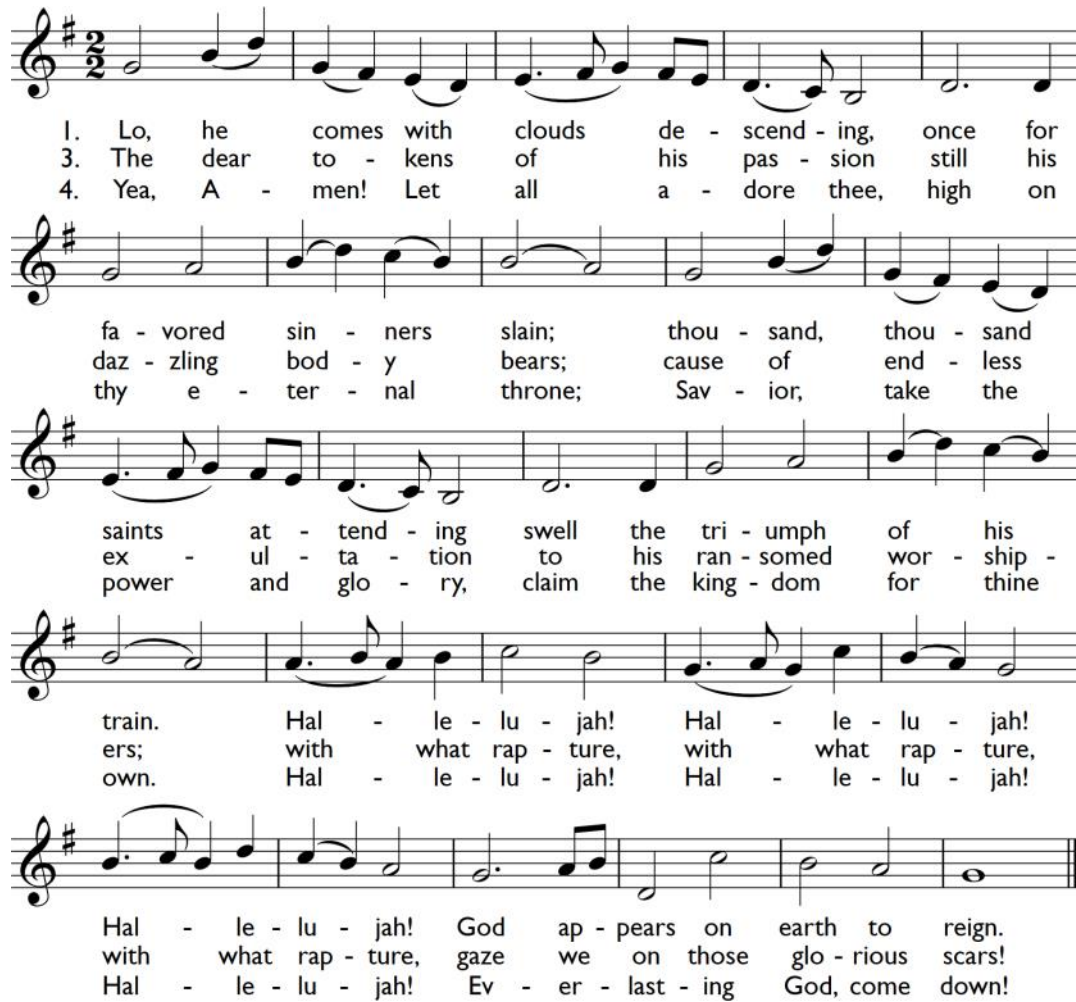
THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE

HYMN

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

UM Hymnal
No.718

Please stand as you are able.



1. Lo, he comes with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
3. The dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his
4. Yea, A - men! Let all a - dore thee, high on
fa - vored sin - ners slain; thou - sand, thou - sand
daz - zling bod - y bears; cause of end - less
thy e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior, take the
saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
power and glo - ry, claim the king - dom for thine
train. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
own. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!
Hal - le - lu - jah! God ap - pears on earth to reign.
with what rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
Hal - le - lu - jah! Ev - er - last - ing God, come down!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1758 (Rev. 1:7)

Music: HELMSLEY, Trad. English melody, 18th cent.; harm. from The English Hymnal, 1906
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Molly Vetter

PRAYER SHAWL BLESSINGS

- 1) Pablo Jauregui
- 2) Karen Camacho

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please remain seated.

Choral

Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

Peter Fennema

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Pastoral Staff

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

Deaconess Jeanne Roe Smith (she/her)
Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA

Sanctuary Music Leadership

Peter Fennema (he/him), *Organist*
Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert (she/her), *Guest Conductor*

Chancel Choir Section Leaders

Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor*
Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*
Jeremy Sarmiento (he/him), *choral scholar*

Guest Musicians

Abram Poliakoff, *guest tenor*
Chloe Owens, *guest alto*

Liturgists

Chloe Sun
Quinn Weatherford

Production Team

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

STAFF OUT TODAY

Dr. Andrew Schultz (he/him), *Dir. of Sanctuary Music*
Carmen Edano (she/her), *alto*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

New Requests

- Pablo Jauregui
- Karen Camacho
- Amy, Josh Burch's fiancée

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- For families and friends of Jackie Ray and Jackie Vincent.
- Eunice, a friend of Nancy Griffin
- Beverly Clajus' brother-in-law
- Bette Caldwell
- Charles, Sabrina, and Ruby Simmons
- Penny Gipson & Family
- Joyce Wu & Michael Javalera
- Gregg Hesling
- Sherry Burch
- Rhonda K. Lawrence
- Laquetta Willis
- Beverly & Brydon Shirk
- Nancy Hill
- Bonnie Crouch
- Coral Moore
- Jim Agee
- Christina Stevens & Family
- For all the international students in California and the US.
- All those affected by the recent wildfires in Pacific Palisades and Eaton Canyon
- The people of Russia, Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Myanmar, and the Sudan.
- For our country as it faces challenges.

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.

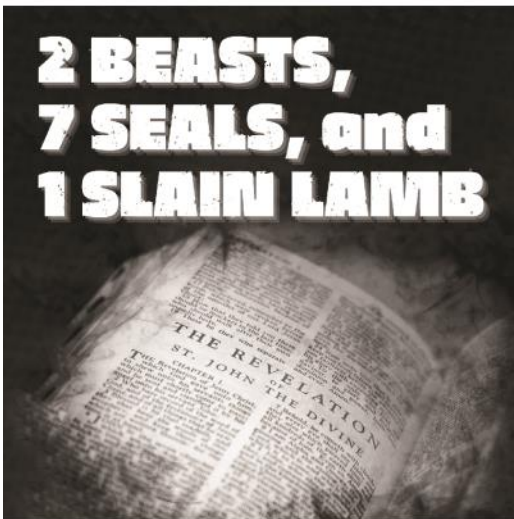
TODAY AT WESTWOOD CHURCH



THE LOFT

**"Celie & Esther: The Courage to Speak" - Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter
Today, May 4th (10:30am) The Loft**

During May, The Loft will celebrate the ways that art, especially musical theater, can help lead us to the salvation we find in ourselves, our community, and God. The four musicals that will shape our gatherings this month are The Color Purple, Into The Woods, Les Misérables, and Rent. Each week, we will explore how themes from biblical stories and that week's play can deepen our faith. This week - Celie is a young black woman growing up in rural Georgia in the early 20th century. Esther is a young queen and Jewish woman living under Persian colonialism around 450 BCE. Though they lived over two thousand years apart, their stories have unfortunate similarities that have stood the test of time. Patriarchy and sexism are not new, and yet what we see in their stories is that if you are faithful in an unfaithful world, you will find the voice that God has placed within you.



2 BEASTS, 7 SEALS, and 1 SLAIN LAMB

**WISDOM AT WESTWOOD: 2 BEASTS, 7 SEALS, & 1 SLAIN LAMB
THE BOOK OF REVELATION with Rev. Dr. John Holbert**

Today, May 4th (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom

The Book of Revelation has been consistently and erroneously used as a New Testament writing to terrify the reader and to affirm the few faithful who will "escape the tribulation." This characterization is wrong on both counts. John wrote his imaginative narrative both to denounce imperial Rome and to announce the universal mercy of God, employing both harsh and compassionate language. His book, as strange as it may at first sound, holds valuable insights for his own time and for ours.

Today, May 4th - Introduction: Approaches to Revelation (Rev. 1)

May 11th - The Messages to the 7 Churches (Rev. 2-3)

May 18th - The Vision of the Scroll (Rev. 4) and
The Woman, the Dragon, & 2 Beasts (Rev. 12-13)

May 25th - The Fall of Babylon/Rome (Rev. 18) and
The New Jerusalem (Rev. 21-22)

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



SURVEY: OUR VISION + MISSION

Our Church Council is working to clarify and articulate the vision and mission of our church. As we continue our conversation, listening across the diversities of our church community, we'd love to ask for your input in the process, too. We wrote this short survey, and encourage you to respond to its questions. It would be helpful to hear from YOU, and to know that voices from throughout the congregation have been heard. Scan the QR code to fill out the survey online.



WESTWOOD LA VOICE ORGANIZING TEAM

Sunday, May 4th (12noon) Grapple Room

This past Monday, Everest and Teela traveled to Sacramento with LA Voice to represent the Westwood Organizing team for a lobby day at the capitol. We met with several assembly members and their staff to advocate for bills related to making LA a more equitable and just place for all people, especially in the wake of the wildfires. Come join the organizing team this Sunday as we debrief our time in Sacramento and prepare for our upcoming LA Civics Party.



LA CIVICS PARTY

Sunday, May 18th (12noon) Wesley Room

Feeling overwhelmed by the state of politics and unsure about what YOU can do? Join the Westwood LA Voice Organizing Team to learn about political organizing, the power of community, and engaging in local politics in a meaningful way. To join our LA Civics Lesson and engagement opportunity or for information about joining the Westwood Organizing Team, contact Everest at everest@westwoodumc.org.



WOMEN IN FAITH LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 24th (11am) Helms Hall

Join us for a Women In Faith potluck luncheon as we enjoy a short program and then lunch. Please let us know if you'll need childcare when you RSVP. Don't forget to include your child(ren)'s age(s) as well. Deadline to RSVP is Sunday, May 18th. Please RSVP to Sabrina Simmons at sabrina@westwoodumc.org.



CONTRIBUTE TO THE GRAPPLE WALL OF EMOTIONS

Last week, Grapple started a new unit on "Turning the Bible INSIDE OUT" where we explore different emotions in our lives and in the Bible! If you would like to contribute to our Wall of Emotions, you can fill out this anonymous Google form, and your responses will be added to our collection of stories, reactions, and experiences.



WESTWOOD CHURCH

Rev. Molly Vetter.....Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter.....Associate Pastor/Pastor of The Loft
Dr. Deanna Edwards.....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, 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.....Director of Children/Youth Choirs
Jaime Top.....Facilities Assistant
David Trotter.....Communications
Youth and Children's Ministry Staff: Maiya Alemania, Beverly Bell, Lesley Castillo, Fozieh Karimi, Ashley Kishibay, Emily Kishibay, 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 Deanna Edwards at deanna@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