



## MORNING PRAYER

Mary Marroquin

Please be seated.

Almighty, all-merciful God,  
through Christ Jesus, you have taught us  
to love one another,  
to love our neighbors as ourselves,  
and even to love our enemies.  
As we gather for worship and as we are sent from this place,  
let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.  
Help us to encounter each person in light of the love and grace  
you have shown us in Christ.  
Establish among us a future where peace reigns,  
justice is done with mercy, and all are reconciled.  
We ask these things in the name  
and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

-Adapted from a collection of Prayers for Times of National and International Crisis and Tragedy, posted on the PCUSA website, <http://www.pcusa.org>

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Molly Vetter

### THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

## HYMN

### Jesu, Jesu

United Methodist Hymnal  
No. 432

Refrain

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

Fine

us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

I. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their

D.C.

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.

Words: Tom Colvin, 1969 (Jn. 13:1-17)  
Music: CHEREPONI, Ghana folk song; arr. by Tom Colvin, 1969; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988  
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When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord.

You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

**Jesu, Jesu**

**United Methodist Hymnal  
No. 432**

Refrain

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you.

Fine

2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor, neigh-bors are black and white, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.

D.C.

Words: Tom Colvin, 1969 (Jn. 13:1-17)  
Music: CHEREPONI, Ghana folk song; arr. by Tom Colvin, 1969; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988  
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One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

**Jesu, Jesu**

**United Methodist Hymnal  
No. 432**

Refrain  
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show  
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you. Fine  
3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should  
love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you. D.C.

**SERMON**

**Love Boldly**

**Molly Vetter**

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

**CALL TO PRAYER**

**“Ubi Caritas,” op. 10, no. 1 from 4 Motets  
Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)**

**Sanctuary Singers**

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exultemus, et in ipso jucundemur.  
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.  
Amen.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
The love of Christ has gathered us together.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Let us revere and love the living God.  
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.  
Amen.

~Translation by Ron Jeffers

**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**    *Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows*  
 arr. John Ness Beck (1930-1987)

**Chancel Choir**

*Such perfect love my Shepherd shows,  
 Whose goodness faileth never;  
 Whose hand all things I need bestows  
 And watches me forever.*

*Where streams of living water flow,  
 My loving Shepherd leadeth,  
 And where the verdant pastures grow,  
 With food celestial feedeth.*

*In death’s dark vale I fear no ill  
 With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,  
 Your rod and staff my comfort still,  
 Your cross before to guide me.*

*And so through all the length of days,  
 Your goodness faileth never;  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 Within thy house forever.  
 Amen.*

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**Voices Raised to You**

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**

**No. 845**

*Please stand as you are able.*



1. Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for songs of praise.



Hearts and hands we bring in trib-ute for your gifts through all our days.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Tri-une God, to you we sing!

Words: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., b. 1923, © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc.  
Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936, © 1996 Carolyn Jennings  
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**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Molly Vetter**



**HYMN**

**There Is a Balm in Gilead**

**United Methodist Hymnal**

**No. 375**

*Please remain standing as you are able.*



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin - sick soul.



- 1. Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain. But
- 2. Don't ev - er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend, and
- 3. If you can't preach like Pe - ter, if you can't pray like Paul, just



then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
 if you look for knowl-edge he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.  
 tell the love of Je - sus, and say he died for all.

Words: Afro-American spiritual  
Music: BALM IN GILEAD, Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith  
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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please be seated.*

**Molly Vetter**

## **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Omar Barnaby  
Craig Olwert  
Michael King

The congregation responds:

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you  
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you in the body of Christ  
and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,  
we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the  
Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness,  
that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

## **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Please remain seated.*

***Fugue #1 from "A Triptych of Fugues"***  
Gerald Near (b. 1942)

**Peter Fennema**

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

### **Pastoral Staff**

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

### **Sanctuary Music Leadership**

Dr. Andrew Schultz, *Dir. of Sanctuary Music*

Peter Fennema, *Organist*

### **Chancel Choir Section Leaders**

Trinity Del Regno (she/her), *soprano*

Carmen Edano (she/her), *alto*

Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor*

Abram Poliakoff (he/him), *guest tenor*

Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*

### **Choral Scholars**

Georgia Madland (she/her), *soprano*

Natalie Fishman, *alto*

### **Liturgists**

Betty Holden

Rhonda K. Lawrence

Mary Marroquin

### **Production Team**

Leila Jay Bishop (they/them), *sound*

Guillermo Gonzalez (he/him), *videography*

Eli Reynolds (he/him), *videography*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

### **New Requests**

- Judy Wessling
- Jakky Tosca

### **Ongoing Prayer Requests**

- Earle Hager
- Jage Schiff
- Anna Lee
- Alex Hodges
- Linda Dannison
- Maggie Fitzgerald
- Coral Moore
- Kenneth Lange
- Eunice
- Nancy Hill
- Paul Rutter
- Pablo Jauregui
- Hapi Veikune & family
- Kelly O'Brien
- Jim Agee
- Patricia Barlow
- Bette Caldwell
- Amy & Josh Burch
- Bonnie Crouch
- The people in the Middle East, Venezuela, Russia, Ukraine, Myanmar, and the Sudan.
- For our country as it continues to face challenges.

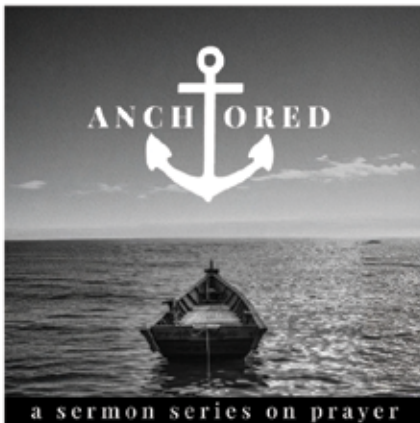
These requests are held in prayer by the pastoral staff and by the prayer chain. You are encouraged to join in praying for them by name.

**To submit a prayer request, please go to [www.westwoodumc.org/care](http://www.westwoodumc.org/care).**

## WESTWOOD UMC MISSION STATEMENT

**Westwood United Methodist Church is an intergenerational Christian community committed to radical inclusivity, justice, compassion, and growing Jesus' beloved community.**

In worship and beyond, we invite you to connect with others in our community through our ministries, events, and groups. We are grateful to be a church that includes and celebrates people of all ages and races, abilities, gender identities and sexual orientations.

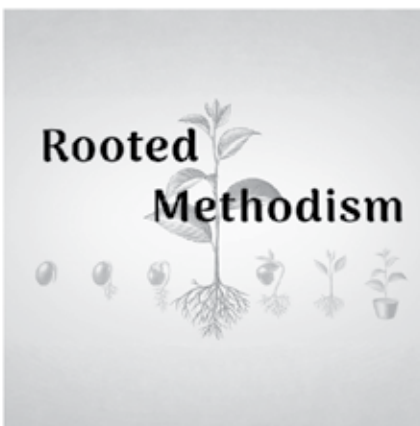


## THE LOFT

**"How Do We Pray?" - Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter**

**Today, April 26th (10:30am) Upstairs in The Loft**

The gospel accounts tell us that Jesus spent roughly three years with his disciples during his earthly ministry. Interestingly, the only thing the disciples specifically asked Jesus to teach them was how to pray. In his life and ministry, Jesus shows us that when prayer is our anchor, we can feel grounded while in calm waters and have the courage we need to stay afloat through the storms.



## WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

**"Rooted Methodism" - Janet Hoskins**

**Today, April 26th (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom**

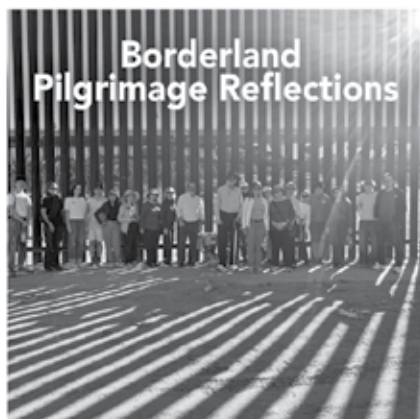
Rooted Methodism is a series of presentations looking back at how John Wesley and other early Methodists addressed issues we still face today. This week, Janet Hoskins will begin with the topic Methodism and Race. Starting with Wesley's Thoughts on Slavery, we will look at how the church has - and sometimes has not - addressed racism.



## WESTWOOD WOMEN'S POTLUCK LUNCH

**Saturday, May 2nd (11am-1pm) Helms Hall**

Join us for a potluck luncheon, fellowship, and fun! We will also be taking a voluntary offering in support of one of Westwood's ministries, 580 Cafe. Don't forget to bring a dish to share with the group! If you'll need childcare, please let us know when you RSVP and include the age(s) your child(ren). To RSVP, please contact Sabrina Simmons at [sabrina@westwoodumc.org](mailto:sabrina@westwoodumc.org).



## WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

**"Borderland Pilgrimage Reflections"**

**Sunday, May 3rd (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom**

In January, a group from our church went on a Borderland Social Justice Pilgrimage to south San Diego county. They worshiped with Border Church at the US/Mexico border wall, visited the Imperial Beach Neighborhood Center, learned about UMC work among border communities with migrants, spent time in the complicated beauty of the Tijuana River Estuary, and visited Chicano Park. Pastor Molly and some of the participants will share reflections on the experience, what they learned, and what it meant to take this journey together.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Westwood United Methodist Church  
presents the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual

### ORGAN CONCERT SERIES



### 2026 ORGAN CONCERT SERIES

Join us in person at Westwood UMC or via YouTube livestream\* for three 60-minute concerts performed on the landmark Shaffer Memorial Organ.

**Peter Fennema**  
Sunday, June 14th (3pm)\*

**Christoph Bull, Organ with Mezzo-Soprano I-Chin-Lee**  
Sunday, June 28th (3pm)

**Piano/Organ Duo Sean Wang-Tange & Brandon Zhao**  
Sunday, July 12th (3pm)\*

\* June 14 and July 12 concerts will be live-streamed and available for later viewing on YouTube.

### MEMORY GARDEN PAVERS



### MEMORY GARDEN PAVERS

Just east of the Sanctuary, our Memory Garden is an ongoing, permanent garden installation to honor or commemorate a loved one or special event or in gratitude for the Westwood UMC family. We are pleased to offer a new invitation to those who would want to sponsor pavers. Rectangular in shape, the garden pavers are approximately 14 x 8 inches, and allow for three lines of engraving, twenty characters per line; a space counts as a character. A sponsorship for a Memory Garden Paver is \$2,250. We are inviting sponsors now, for an engraving session after Easter. If you are interested in sponsoring a paver, contact Sabrina Simmons at [sabrina@westwoodumc.org](mailto:sabrina@westwoodumc.org) or 310.474.4511.



### SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT 2026

Our Grapple Group is going to Northern Arizona in the Navajo Nation for our Sierra Service Project trip in July 11-19, 2026! There will be an overnight drive on both ends of the trip. Incoming seventh graders and older youth are welcome to come. This summer we are going to an intergenerational week, which means if any college-age or young people are interested in attending they are ALSO WELCOME this year! And, we are looking for older adult chaperones, too--please reach out to Everest if you would like to know more. The cost of participating is \$650, including a \$200 deposit to sign up. Westwood UMC welcomes donations from the congregation to help with covering the cost of vehicles, travel breakfast and dinner, and chaperone participation. You can send in a deposit or make a donation at [www.WestwoodUMC.org.Give](http://www.WestwoodUMC.org.Give).

### SPONSOR SUNDAY ALTAR FLOWERS



### 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](mailto:sabrina@westwoodumc.org) or 310.474.4511.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



### PRAYERFUL STITCHES MEETING Sunday, May 3rd (12noon) The Loft

Come for some great fellowship and crafting! We can teach you to knit or crochet, we have yarn and needles and patterns! Prayerful Stitches is an outreach ministry of the church! The ministry provides prayer shawls for members and friends of our community who are struggling, a tangible way for the rest of the community to lay on hands and pray for the recipients, and a community gathering opportunity for the creators as they gather in prayer and fun whilst creating shawls. RSVP to Ellen Evans Agee (ebee9999@gmail.com) or Nancy Hill (njhill88@gmail.com).



### RACIAL RESILIENCE

From April 30th through May 4th, Westwood UMC will host participants from the Cultivating Racial Resilience cohort that Rev. Dr. Carter is leading in partnership with Methodist Theological School in Ohio. The goal of the program is to equip ministry leaders with the tools to launch ministry projects in their local communities that are grounded in love, justice, and compassion. They will be joining us for worship on Sunday, May 3rd, and we will have a community lunch upstairs in The Loft after worship. We hope you have the opportunity to meet them, and we ask that you please keep them in your prayers because they are doing difficult but important work.



### LOTERIA AND LAUGHS Thursday, May 21st (6-8pm) Pico House

Join Echo Park Immigration Center (EPIC) for food, loteria, and comedy. Your \$50 ticket supports immigrant youth and families with empowerment programs, Know Your Rights workshops, and mutual aid. Scan the QR code to purchase tickets.



### 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S ORDINATION

On Sunday, May 31st, Westwood UMC will celebrate the 70 years of women's ordination in the Methodist tradition. During worship in both The Sanctuary and The Loft, we will include and honor clergywomen who have been connected to our congregation. Special guests will include: Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, Rev. Dr. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Rev. Jane Voigts, Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart, Rev. Kathy Cannon, Rev. Dr. Natalie Houghtby-Haddon and Rev. Blair Stowe.

# WESTWOOD CHURCH

Rev. Molly Vetter.....Senior Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter.....Associate Pastor/Pastor of The Loft  
Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert.....Minister of Care  
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  
Trinity Del Regno, Carmen Edano, Taylor Jacobs, Byron Jones.....Chancel Choir Section Leaders  
Sabrina Simmons.....Office Manager  
Pablo Jauregui.....Facilities Manager  
Gabrielle Grubbs.....Loft Music and Worship Director  
Westley Garcia.....Director of Loft Connections  
Uriya Simeon.....Assistant Director of Children and Youth Ministries  
Isabel Kilroe.....Director of Children's Arts  
Jaime Top.....Facilities Assistant  
David Trotter.....Communications  
Youth & Children's Ministry Staff: Beverly Bell, Lesley Castillo, Fozieh Karimi, Ashley Kishibay, and Emily Kishibay

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](http://www.WestwoodUMC.org)

## The Loft – 10:30am

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

More info: [www.TheLoftLA.org](http://www.TheLoftLA.org)

## Westwood Kids

Westwood Church has a vibrant Sunday morning children's ministry. Integrating biblical stories, music, art, and play, we are exploring God's world using multiple teaching approaches. Join us in The Sanctuary at 9:30am, including a children's time, followed by our own morning together in our children's area until 12noon. Join our Westwood Kids email by contacting Deanna Edwards at [deanna@westwoodumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:everest@westwoodumc.org).

**Westwood Church**  
10497 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

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

**Contact Us**  
[wumc@westwoodumc.org](mailto:wumc@westwoodumc.org)  
310.474.4511

