



The Sanctuary

May 3, 2026

5th Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

Fugue #2 from "A Triptych of Fugues"
Gerald Near (b. 1942)

Peter Fennema

WELCOME

Molly Vetter

*May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.*

HYMN

Please stand as you are able.

Saranam, Saranam

(Saranam is a Punjabi word that means "refuge")

United Methodist Hymnal

No. 523

Refrain

Je - sus, Sav - ior, Lord, lo, to thee I fly: Sar - a -
nam, Sar - a - nam, Sar - a - nam; thou the Rock, my ref - uge that's
higher than I: Sar - a - nam, Sar - a - nam, Sar - a - nam.

1. In the midst of foes I cry to thee, from the ends of earth wher - ev - er
2. In thy tent give me a dwell - ing place, and be - neath thy wings may I find
3. O that I my vows to thee may pay, and that by thy faith - ful - ness to
I may be; my strength in help - less - ness, O an - swer me:
shel - tering grace; O lift on me the sun - shine of thy face:
me each day may live, and on thy love my bur - dens lay:
Sar - a - nam, Sar - a - nam, Sar - a - nam.

MORNING PRAYER

Darel Morado

Please be seated.

*We worship you, O God, with joyful noise—
with words of praise and adoration spoken and sung in the name of Jesus
who brought your love song to us in person.
You put new words in our mouths and new intentions in our hearts,
especially a new understanding of power.
Power shaped by love and righteousness, justice and mercy.
We now know that power is not to be used to exploit or dominate,
but to serve others as willingly as Jesus did.
His life and death demonstrated how the love of power could be transformed by the power of love.
We gather here today to celebrate your rule of love in our hearts
as we experience it in Jesus and through the enabling gift of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

-Adapted from Moira Laidlaw, posted on her
Liturgies Online website.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Molly Vetter



THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 100

Nancy Price

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into God's presence with singing!
Know that the Lord, who made us, is God.
We are the Lord's;
we are the people of God,
the sheep of God's pasture.
Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and God's courts with praise!
Give thanks and bless God's name!
For the Lord is good;
God's steadfast love endures for ever;
God's faithfulness to all generations.*

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

1. Man - y and great, O God, are thy things, Mak - er of earth and
sky. Thy hands have set the heav - ens with stars;
thy fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at thy
word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey thy voice.

Words: Joseph R. Renville, ca. 1846; para. by Philip Frazier, 1929 (Ps. 104:24-30; Jer. 10:12, 13)
Music: LACQUIPARLE, Native American melody; harm. by Richard Proulx, 1986, G.J.A. Publications, Inc.
Used with permission. OneLicense.net #A-712504

SCRIPTURE READING

I Peter 4:8-11

Molly Vetter

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

Thanks be to God.

2. Grant un-to us com-mun - ion with thee, thou star a - bid - ing
one; come un - to us and dwell with us;
with thee are found the gifts of life. Bless us with
life that has no end, e - ter - nal life with thee.


 THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO PRAYER

Peter Fennema

*In the Sunlit Peace of Divine Love (excerpt)
from “The Battle of Life and Death”*

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD **Jeanne Roe Smith**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

Cornerstone

Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)

Chancel Choir

Byron Jones, *bass soloist*
Carmen Edano, *alto soloist*

*O the stone that the builders rejected
became the cornerstone of a whole new world.*

*A grain of wheat may be knocked to the ground
and suffer through the winter's cold,
only to rise right up again
and bear its seed a thousandfold.*

*Never can our journey fail;
a little child will lead the way,
whose eyes are filled with a shining light,
to whom the night is bright as day.*

*The love that rolls the stone away
gives us life and that we may sing
“Grave where is thy victory?
Death, o death, where is thy sting?”*

~Text drawn from Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 11:6,
John 12:24, 1 Corinthians 15:55

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Voices Raised to You

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

No. 845

Please stand as you are able.

2. All cre-a-tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your works dis-play.
Art and mu-sic, gifts you lend us, we re-turn to you to-day.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! God, cre-a-tor, source of life!

Words: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., b. 1923, © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936, © 1996 Carolyn Jennings
Used with permission. OneLicense.net #A-712504

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Molly Vetter

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

**Loving God, too often we overlook the needs of people around us while we proclaim our devotion to you.
We could do so much more to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, to welcome the stranger, and heal the sick.
We fail to recognize ways that our systems diminish the humanity of us all.
Open our hearts to recognize your presence in every person, and to respond to their needs so that we may be rightly called by your name.
Amen.**

*Though we wander, God searches us out.
God reaches out to us, longing to bring us ever closer.
Receive this good news:
God pardons our sin and frees us to boldly love
And joyfully serve God and neighbor.*

**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

**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 as the ushers guide your row; please receive the bread and dip it into the cup. Gluten free wafers are available in the front. 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

Sanctuary Singers

This Little Light of Mine

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

*All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

*My God gave it to me, Oh children,
I'm gonna let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

*In my home, All over the world,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Molly Vetter



HYMN

Rule of Life

**Worship & Song
No. 3117**

Please stand as you are able.

1st time - Solo Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, —
2nd time - All

— in all the ways you can, in all the pla - ces you can, —
— at all the times you can, to all the peo - ple you can, —
— as long as ev - er you can.

Words: 18th cent. aphorism, attr. to John Wesley
Music: RULE OF LIFE; Edward Bonnemere, © Amity Music
Used with permission. OneLicense.net #A-712504

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Molly Vetter

Please be seated.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue #3 from "A Triptych of Fugues"
Gerald Near (b. 1942)

Peter Fennema

Please remain seated.

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

Christopher Arceo, *Guest Conductor*
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

Darel Morado
Nancy Price

Production Team

Leila Jay Bishop (they/them), *sound*
Guillermo Gonzalez (he/him), *videography*
Eli Reynolds (he/him), *videography*

STAFF OUT TODAY

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

New Requests

- Subie Green

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- Judy Wessling
- 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.

WESTWOOD UMC MISSION STATEMENT

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

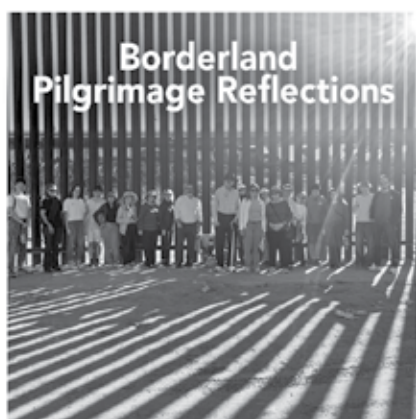
In worship and beyond, we invite you to connect with others in our community through our ministries, events, and groups. We are grateful to be a church that includes and celebrates people of all ages and races, abilities, gender identities and sexual orientations.



THE LOFT

"The Breath of Life" - Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter
Today, May 3rd (10:30am) Upstairs in The Loft

As Christians, we believe in one God who has revealed Godself to us in three distinct persons - the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. While the concept of the Trinity has helped us understand something of the nature of God, within the Western church much more has been written about the Creator and the Son than about the Holy Spirit. This Sunday, we begin our four-week series on the Holy Spirit by asking - what is the Holy Spirit?



WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

"Borderland Pilgrimage Reflections"
Today, 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.

PRAYERFUL STITCHES MEETING

Today, 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 (ebea9999@gmail.com) or Nancy Hill (njhill88@gmail.com).

POC GROUP

Today, May 3rd (12:10pm) Wesley Room

Have you always wished we had a People of Color affinity group here at Westwood? A few of us got together and decided we wanted to provide a place where we could feel more at home, be in community with other people of color, raise our concerns and advocate for issues we care about. We also want to go on outings together like festivals, museums, and plays. Join us today for a get together and potluck lunch. To stay in the know, scan the QR code to join our WhatsApp group or contact Karen Pang at karendpang@gmail.com.



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Today, May 3rd (12:15pm) The Loft

Our Care Ministry has begun forming a Caregivers Support Group for you who are dealing with family members who need extra care, as well as folks who want to support our friends. Our goal is to form a small community that you can count on, who are willing to pray for each other, who are available when things get bumpy, and to supply a listening ear and share resources. We have made plans to meet twice monthly on Zoom and occasionally in person. If you would like to join in, contact Pastor Diana at diana@westwoodumc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RACIAL RESILIENCE



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 & LAUGHS
THURSDAY MAY 21 - 6-8 PM \$50
10000 WOODBINE - 1070 N. PICO ST. LOS ANGELES, CA 90022

EPIC A Benefit for EPIC LA
Supporting Immigrant Children and Families

Join us for an EPIC night of Loteria, fun stand-up comedy, and delicious Mexican food - all in support of EPIC LA's mutual aid efforts, empowerment workshops, and summer programs for immigrant youth and families.

Get your people for a raucous, high-energy evening filled with friendly competition, big laughs, and food that brings us together - while helping fund mutual aid and community care.

One Ticket Includes:

- Loteria games & prizes
- Live comedy sets throughout the evening
- Authentic Mexican dinner
- Refreshing Mexican drinks

Scan the QR code and get your tickets today!
BILATGSTERM21C

ALL PROCEEDS FUEL EPIC LA'S PROGRAMS
SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT YOUTH AND FAMILIES.

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 IN THE METHODIST TRADITION

a celebration of clergywomen at Westwood UMC

Sunday, May 31st

9:30am - The Sanctuary
10:30am - The Loft

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.



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE WEDDING OF EVEREST & URIYA

Saturday, June 6th (11am) Westwood UMC Sanctuary

Everest and Uriya are delighted to invite the congregation to join them at their wedding! A tea party reception will be held in the courtyard afterward. For more information, scan the QR code to check out their wedding website.



UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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 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.



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.

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

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 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.

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

