



The Sanctuary



May 17, 2026

Ascension Sunday

PRELUDE

Maya
Ian Clarke (b. 1964)

**Marley Eder, Emily Harrington,
and Peter Fennema**

WELCOME

Molly Vetter

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

HYMN

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

**UM Hymnal
No. 57**

Please stand as you are able.



1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
5. God speaks, and listen - ing to thy voice, new
7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall



great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful, bro - ken
feel your sins for - given; an - tic - i - pate your



God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be lieve.
heaven be - low, and own that love is heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839
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MORNING PRAYER

Dick Sun

Please be seated.

*Lord God,
Maker of heaven and earth,
we gather together in Your name.
We come as living sacrifices,
to offer You our worship and thanksgiving,
our praise and our prayers.
Come among us, living Lord.
Through the power of Your Holy Spirit,
transform our hearts and minds
so that we may encounter Your presence,
recognize Your voice,
know Your will,
and follow in Your way.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Molly Vetter

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**Molly Vetter, John Griffin-Atil
Deanna Edwards & Mary Marroquin**

Grayson Botts Conrad
Child of Katherine Botts & Jackson Conrad

When indicated, please respond with:

**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 his 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.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

**Katherine Lynn Botts
Thomas Hodge Botts**

As we welcome new members, 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.

THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

UM Hymnal
No. 611

1. Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
2. Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -
with the Spir - it's sign; with this wa - ter -
a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re -
God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.

Words: Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981
Music: STUTTGART, Attr. to C.F.Witt, 1715; adapt. by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1861
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SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:1-8

John Holbert

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

Thanks be to God.

1. God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace.
In the midst of chang-ing ways give us still the grace to praise.

Refrain
Man-y gifts, one Spir-it, one love known in man-y ways. In our dif-fer-
ence is bless-ing, from di-ver-si-ty we praise one Giv-er, one Lord,
one Spir-it, one Word known in man-y ways, hal-low-ing our
days. For the Giv-er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

Words: Al Carmines © 1973
Music: KATHERINE, Al Carmines © 1973
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SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 28:16-20

Molly Vetter

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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

Thanks be to God.

2. God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
you have made us dif - ferent, bless - ing man - y kinds.
As the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast out our fear.

Refrain
Man - y gifts, one Spir - it, one love known in man - y ways. In our dif - fer -
ence is bless - ing, from di - ver - si - ty we praise one Giv - er, one Lord,
one Spir - it, one Word known in man - y ways, hal - low - ing our
days. For the Giv - er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

SERMON

Transform the World

Molly Vetter
John Griffin-Atil



CALL TO PRAYER

God be In My Head
Alexander L'estrange (b. 1974)

Sanctuary Singers

*God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be at mine end and at my departing.*

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD

Tanya Sun

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Tanya Sun

**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

Be Thou My Vision

Chancel Choir

Traditional Irish Melody, arr. Mack Wilberg (b.1955)

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord,
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Voices Raised to You

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

No. 845

Please stand as you are able.



4. Spir - it, flam-ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with - in each heart.



Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus; through our hands your love im - part.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE

HYMN

Go, Make of All Disciples

United Methodist Hymnal

No. 571

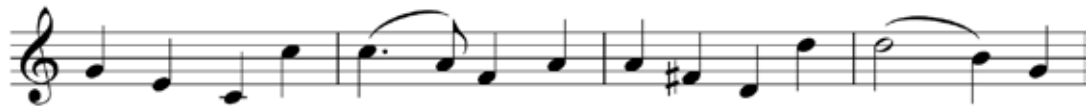
Please stand as you are able.



1. "Go, make of all dis - ci - ples." We hear the call, O Lord, that
2. "Go, make of all dis - ci - ples," bap - tiz - ing in the name of
4. "Go, make of all dis - ci - ples." We wel - come thy com - mand. "Lo,



comes from thee, our Mak - er, in thy e - ter - nal Word. In -
Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, from age to age the same. We
I am with you al - ways." We take thy guid - ing hand. The



spire our ways of learn - ing through ear - nest, fer - vent prayer, and
call each new dis - ci - ple to fol - low thee, O Lord, re -
task looms large be - fore us; we fol - low with - out fear; in



let our dai - ly liv - ing re - veal thee ev - ery - where.
deem - ing soul and bod - y by wa - ter and the Word.
heaven and earth thy pow - er shall bring God's king - dom here.

Words: Leon M. Adkins © 1964 Abingdon Press
Music: LANCASHIRE, Henry T. Smart, 1835
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Molly Vetter

Please be seated.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Te Deum

Peter Fennema

Please remain seated.

Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704)

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Pastoral Staff

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

Rev. John Griffin-Atil

We are pleased to welcome Rev. John Griffin-Atil to Westwood today, to speak during the sermon, and share in the sacrament of baptism. Rev. John is Executive Director of Imperial Beach Neighborhood Center.

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*

Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*

Choral Scholars

Georgia Madland (she/her), *soprano*

Guest Instrumentalists

Marley Eder and Emily Harrington, *flutes*

Liturgists

Rev. Dr. John Holbert

Dick & Tanya Sun

Production Team

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

Guillermo Gonzalez (he/him), *videography*

Eli Reynolds (he/him), *videography*

STAFF OUT TODAY

Natalie Fishman, *alto choral scholar*

PARTICIPATING TODAY

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

New Requests/Updates

- Paul Rutter
- Ish-Shan Sun, Dick Sun's father
- Bukola Gbadamosi, Yinka Bamgbose's stepdaughter

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- Subie Green
- Judy Wessling
- Jage Schiff
- Anna Lee
- Alex Hodges
- Linda Dannison
- Maggie Fitzgerald
- Coral Moore
- Kenneth Lange
- Eunice
- Nancy Hill
- 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.

TODAY AT WESTWOOD UMC



THE LOFT

"Called: The Holy Spirit & Vocation" - Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter
Today, May 17th (10:30am) Upstairs in The Loft

The Holy Spirit is the implanted hope that continually moves us to live the Christian life, the Way of Jesus. In addition to reconciliation, a section function of this movement is found in our vocation. This Sunday we will be joined by **Reverend Rae Huang**. She is a community organizer, ordained Presbyterian minister, and actively engaged in Los Angeles politics. We will discuss how her vocational path has always been in response to the Spirit.



WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

"Not A Church, A Neighborhood Center"
Today, May 17th (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom

Rev. John Griffin-Atil is the Executive Director of the Imperial Beach Neighborhood Center. His ministry with the community Imperial Beach is transforming a former UMC church into a hub for the whole neighborhood. The IBNC attends to the South Bay San Diego beach community by providing the necessary services to those in need while also focusing on the empowerment and well-being of the community.



QUEER GROUP

Today, May 17th (12noon) Church Courtyard

Westwood UMC's Queer group – our Small Group for LGBTQIA+ folks – will have a special meeting today with guest Rev. John Griffin-Atil. Pastor John was one of the first out gay UMC clergy in our area, and his long ministry is a witness of persistence and courage. For more information, please contact Everest Harvey at everest@westwoodumc.org and join the WhatsApp group to get looped in to info about meetings, Bible studies, and more.



CONNECT WITH OUR MINISTRIES

Join a Small Group: We have neighborhood groups in Westwood and Culver City, and groups for Young Adults, Men, Queer Folks, and People of Color. Contact Westley Garcia at westley@theloft.org for details.

Join a Social Justice Group: Contact Everest at everest@westwoodumc.org to join our Social Justice Team, our Community Advocacy Team, or our Social Justice Movie Club.

Join Care Ministries: Contact Pastor Diana Holbert at diana@westwoodumc.org to connect with any of our care ministry teams, including meal trains, visitation volunteers, and more.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOTERIA & LAUGHS
THURSDAY MAY 21 - 6-8 PM \$50
PICO HOUSE - 404 N PICO ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

A Benefit for EPIC LA
 Supporting Immigrant Children and Families

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

Bring your people for a relaxed, high-energy evening filled with friendly competition, big laughs, and food that brings us together - while helping fund our outreach and community care.

One Ticket Includes:

- Loteria games & prizes
- Live comedy sets throughout the evening
- Authentic Mexican dinner
- Refreshing special beverage
- Beer & wine available for purchase

SCAN THE QR CODE AND GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
 @EPLAOTLORERIA

ALL PROCEEDS FUND 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.



ALL CHURCH TACO PARTY
SUNDAY, MAY 24TH 12NOON IN THE LOFT
 Benefiting the Wisdom at Westwood Sunday Speaker Series

ALL CHURCH TACO PARTY

Sunday, May 24th (12noon) The Loft

Come and enjoy delicious homemade tacos and Mexican food made by Paul Freese to support the Wisdom at Westwood Speaker Series. There will be carne asada, ground beef, chicken, and vegetarian tacos available. While this special event is free and open to all, we hope that you will consider a voluntary donation of \$15/person. Your generous contributions will help us continue offering meaningful and thought-provoking experiences and supports the inspiring guest speakers who enrich our Wisdom at Westwood classes on Sunday mornings. Make a donation at www.WestwoodUMC.org/Give or put it in the Sunday offering plate. Questions? Contact Sabrina Simmons at sabrina@westwoodumc.org.

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. Kathy Cannon, Rev. Dr. Natalie Houghtby-Haddon and Rev. Blair Stowe.



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE WEDDING OF EVEREST & URIYA

Saturday, June 6th (11:30am) 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

Westwood United Methodist Church
presents the 20th 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 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

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

