



The Sanctuary



July 12, 2026

7th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

“Cantique” from *Folkloric Suite*
Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Peter Fennema

WELCOME

Christopher Carter

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

HYMN

Come, We That Love the Lord

**United Methodist Hymnal
No. 732**

Please stand as you are able.

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our
2. Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er
4. Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - ery
joys be known; join in a song with
knew our God; but chil - dren of the
tear be dry; we're march - ing through Em -
sweet ac - cord, and thus sur - round the throne.
heaven - ly King may speak their joys a - broad.
man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high.

Words: Issac Watts, 1707
Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, *The New Universal Psalmist*, 1770
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MORNING PRAYER

Tonia Symensma-Cohen

Please be seated.

Author of Life, Living Word, Holy Breath,
We have stumbled through the week
And found our way back to this place.
Illumine the steps before us
And write your word on our hearts,
For we carry the name of Jesus
And wish to walk in the light of his love.
By the power of your Spirit come to us now.
Plant your living Word into our hearts,
Until we who are broken become fertile with you rlove,
For we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting.
We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear.
Amen.

(adapted from "Feasting on the Word," Kimberly Bracken Long, editor)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Christopher Carter

THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

Bring Forth the Kingdom

The Faith We Sing No. 2190

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The lyrics are: "I. You are salt for the earth, O peo- ple: Salt for the King- dom of God! Share the fla- vor of life, O peo- ple: Life in the King- dom of God! Bring forth the King- dom of mer- cy, bring forth the King- dom of peace; bring forth the King- dom of jus- tice, bring forth the Cit- y of God!"

Words and Music: Marty Haugen (Matt. 5:13-16)
Tune: BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.
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SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

John Holbert

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
 and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
 making it bring forth and sprout,
 giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
 it shall not return to me empty,
 but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
 and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
 For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;
 the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
 and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
 instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
 and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
 for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Bring Forth the Kingdom

**The Faith We Sing
No. 2190**

3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: Bring forth the
 King-dom of God! Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the
 King-dom of God! Bring forth the King-dom of mer-cy, bring forth the
 King-dom of peace; bring forth the King-dom of jus-tice,
 bring forth the Cit-y of God!

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Christopher Carter

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked

them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!”

“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Bring Forth the Kingdom

**The Faith We Sing
No. 2190**

4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple: Bound for the
King - dom of God! Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: Love is the
King - dom of God! Bring forth the King - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the
King - dom of peace; bring forth the King - dom of jus - tice,
bring forth the Cit - y of God!

SERMON

Deepening Our Roots

Christopher Carter



CALL TO PRAYER

Piece in Medieval Style
Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Peter Fennema

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD

Sherry Burch

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

Christopher Carter

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

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Byron Jones

John Rutter (b. 1945)

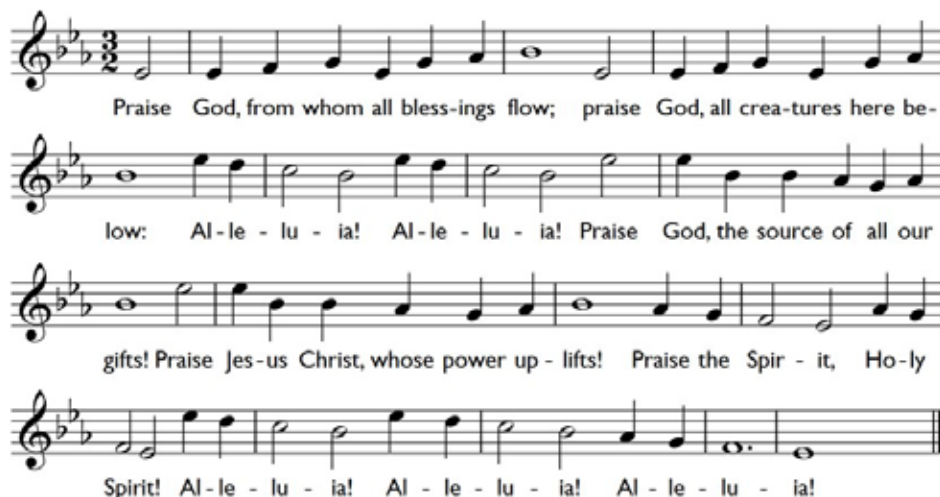
*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you.
the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace.
Amen.*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

**UM Hymnal
No. 94**

Please stand as you are able.



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be-
low: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our
gifts! Praise Jes-us Christ, whose power up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho-ly
Spirit! Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
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THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE

HYMN

O Word of God Incarnate

United Methodist Hymnal
No. 598

Please stand as you are able.

1. O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom
 2. The church from you, our Sav - ior, re - ceived the
 4. O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of
 from on high, O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O
 gift di - vine, and still that light is lift - ed o'er
 pur - est gold, to bear be - fore the na - tions your
 Light of our dark sky: we praise you for the
 all the earth to shine. It is the sa - cred
 true light as of old. O teach your wan - dering
 ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page, a lan - tern
 ves - sel where gems of truth are stored; it is the
 pil - grims by this their path to trace, till, clouds and
 to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 heaven - drawn pic - ture of Christ, the liv - ing Word.
 dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Words: William W. How, 1867
 Music: MUNICH, Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christopher Carter

Please be seated.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Canzona” from Folkloric Suite

Peter Fennema

Please remain seated.

Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter (he/him), *Associate Pastor/
Pastor of The Loft*

Sanctuary Music Leadership

Peter Fennema, *Organist*

Sanctuary Singers

Trinity Del Regno (she/her), *soprano*
Carmen Edano (she/her), *alto*
Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor*
Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*

Liturgists

Sherry Burch
Rev. Dr. John Holbert
Tonia Symensma-Cohen

Production Team

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

Altar Flowers

Given by **Westwood Chancel Choir** in honor and
celebration of John Holbert's birthday July 8th.

STAFF OUT TODAY

Rev. Molly Vetter (she/her), *Senior Pastor*
Dr. Andrew Schultz, *Director of Sanctuary Music*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

New Requests

- Jerry Whittemore

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- Diana Park
- Paul Rutter
- Dick Sun & Family
- Bukola Gbadamosi
- Judy Wessling
- Jage Schiff
- Maggie Fitzgerald
- Nancy Hill
- Pablo Jauregui
- Hapi Veikune & family
- Linda Dannison
- Coral Moore
- Eunice
- Jim Agee
- Patricia Barlow
- Bette Caldwell
- 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

hospitality

(n.) more than just sunday friends



THE LOFT

"We Are Strangers Who Welcome Strangers" - Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter Today, July 12th (10:30am) Upstairs in The Loft

Throughout his teaching and ministry, we encounter Jesus as a vulnerable guest, a needy stranger, and a gracious host. Jesus both welcomes and needs to be welcomed. In this way, when we are hospitable to the needy stranger, we do so with the awareness that we may be showing hospitality to Christ. And when we receive hospitality from a stranger, they give it knowing that they may be showing hospitality to Christ too.

astonish



WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

"Accounts from the Annual Conference"

Today, July 12th (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom

Westwood Church was well represented at the United Methodist California-Pacific Annual Conference which was held last month in La Quinta, CA. Clergy and laity contributed to and were inspired by the plenary sessions, group meetings, and worship services. Join Louise Spear, Denise Freese, and Rachel Gipson as they look forward to sharing their experiences.

PARABLE PLAY - WESTWOOD KIDS SUMMER PLANS

Sundays in the Summer (9:30am - 12noon)

Our kids will experience music and movement, art, songs, special snacks, dramas, crafts and a Godly Play gold-box story, including a time for wonder, silence, and response activities. This wonder-full program is based on our Godly Play series of 6 parables of Jesus: *The Good Shepherd*, *The Good Samaritan*, *The Great Pearl*, *The Sower*, *The Leaven*, and *The Mustard Seed*. We will have fun telling these stories in several delightful ways! But wait, there's more: We will follow these six great weeks with the intriguing new 4-part series we call *The Greatest Parable*. Does this seem a little bit like a mystery? Well, as we say every Sunday . . . "I wonder!" For more information, contact Deanne Edwards at deanne@westwoodumc.org.



Westwood United Methodist Church
presents the 20th Annual

ORGAN CONCERT SERIES



2026 ORGAN CONCERT SERIES

Today, July 12th (3pm) In person and via YouTube livestream

Join us this afternoon for our third and final free 60-minute summer concert featuring a piano and organ duo Sean Wang-Tang and Brandon Zhao.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



MID-YEAR FINANCE UPDATE

We are grateful for the generosity of many people, whose donations make it possible to fund our \$1.8M annual ministry budget. Just over \$700K of this budget comes directly from the tithes and offerings of our congregation; we are approximately \$40K behind in donations received, as of this mid-year point. Our giving, however, has been steady from month to month. This year, we set an ambitious budget, making use of some one-time funds that are available to us; we know that continuing to fund our budget at equivalent levels will require additional donations in coming years. If you have been considering starting or stepping up your giving to the church, please know that your gifts will enable us to continue our faithful ministries together. You are invited to make one-time or recurring donations online; if you would like to know more about additional giving options, including stock transfers or Required Minimum Distributions from an IRA, please contact our volunteer Treasurer, Keith Price, in our Finance Office at keith@westwoodumc.org.



SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT - DONATIONS WELCOME

Our Grapple Group is traveling to Northern Arizona in the Navajo Nation for our Sierra Service Project this July 11-19. Our group of 25 will include 19 youth, and 1 college-age student, and 6 other adults. We invite you to hold them in prayer. You can also still make a donation to support the trip by mail, offering plate, or online at www.WestwoodUMC.org.Give.

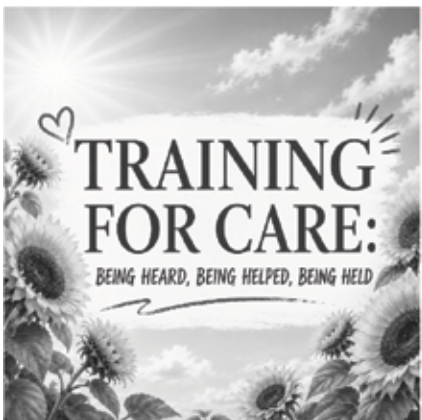


JOIN THE SUMMER CHOIR!

Sundays - July 19th through September 13th

Practice - 9am in The Sanctuary to sing at 9:30am

Do you like to sing? Don't read music? That's okay! Join us in The Sanctuary at 9am to learn a simple anthem that we'll sing in the 9:30am gathering that day. We don't wear robes, and we sit in the church service as part of the congregation until the Offertory. Come one Sunday, or come to every Sunday! For more information, contact Andrew Schultz at andrew@westwoodumc.org. (Regular Thursday evening rehearsals restart on October 1st with the Chancel Choir returning to the worship service on October 4th.)



TRAINING FOR CARE: BEING HEARD, BEING HELPED, BEING HELD

Sunday, August 30th (12-1:45pm) Helms Hall

Have you ever wondered what to say to a person in crisis? Or how to show God's love when someone's world is falling apart? This August, our Care Ministry is offering lunch and training for everyone in the church, from teenagers to elders, in order to help supply the support you need to support others. To sign up to attend, scan the QR code and please indicate if you need childcare. (Deadline is August 23rd.)



UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.



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.



580 CAFE FOOD DONATION LIST

Support the ministry of 580 Café by dropping off any of these items at 580 Hilgard Ave. (LA) on Monday - Wednesday (10am-6pm) or Thursday - Friday (10am-4pm). For more info, contact wfsucla@gmail.com or 310.909.4471.

- Canned Goods (tuna, chicken, pasta sauce, coconut milk, soup, chili)
- Beans (black, red, butter, refried)
- Pasta (any shape, box or bag)
- Easy Mac n Cheese (individual cups)
- Snacks individually packaged (granola bars, snack bars, chips, cheese crackers, trail mix)
- Cup of Noodles (individual cups), Ramen, Nori
- Grocery Cards (\$10-\$25) Ralphs, Trader Joes, Target



WESTWOOD KIDS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

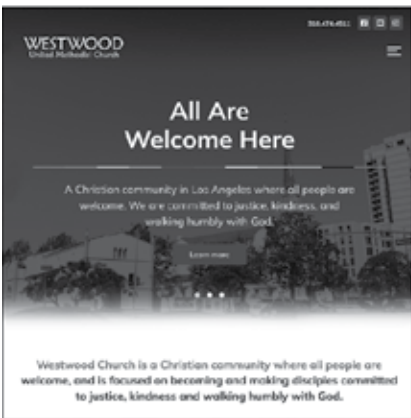
Keeping our kids happy and safe is our goal. Our policy is to have two adults in each classroom at all times, including the nursery. The second person in the room with the teacher does not need special training or preparation, just a love of children and willingness to be present with us for an hour or two...about six times a year during The Sanctuary or The Loft gathering times. If you would enjoy volunteering in this easy and delightful way, contact Deanna Edwards, Dir. of Children's Ministries, at deanna@westwoodumc.org or 765-620-4280.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



MUTUAL AID RESPONSE TEAM

Mutual aid is an opportunity for us to build genuine community with each other by supporting each other with our time and talents. All it requires is for us to be open to receiving help and to be willing to help another as we are able. In order for this system of Mutual Aid to work, we need people to sign up to be on the Mutual Aid Response Team. Join the response team at www.WestwoodUMC.org/MutualAidTeam and click on "ask to join the group," and you will be notified whenever there is a request. If you, or someone you know is in need of aid, please have them complete the Mutual Aid Request Form at www.WestwoodUMC.org/MutualAid.



STAY UPDATED ON UPCOMING EVENTS!

We are pleased to share that we've updated our Westwood UMC website, in hopes that it will make it easier for new folks to find us online, and easier for our folks to find helpful information (including our worship livestream, church calendar, and more). We hope you'll check it out at www.WestwoodUMC.org.

Scan the QR code to learn about all upcoming events!

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-Davis.....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 Harvey-Davis.....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

