



The Sanctuary

July 19, 2026

8th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Lied

Peter Fennema

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

WELCOME

Diana Holbert

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace United Methodist Hymnal

Please stand as you are able.

No. 109

1. Cre - a - ting God, your fin - gers trace the
2. Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's
3. Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all

bold de - signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and
mys - teries known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's fra - gile
now de - spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing

stars and light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
blend with air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
like a dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.

Words: Jeffery Rowthorn, 1974

Music: KEDRON; attr. to Elkanah Kelsay Dare, 1799

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MORNING PRAYER

Janet Hoskins

Please be seated.

Siblings, hear the word of the Lord.
In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,
God says unequivocally, irrevocably:
You are my own;
You are forgiven;
And I need you to be about my business in the world.

O Rock of Israel and cornerstone of our common life,
You are not bound by our visions, our structures, our doctrine.
We cannot predict your coming or going,
Yet you have given us your story, your family, your work to do.
Meet us here.
Shape us for service in your world,
For we carry the name of Jesus
And live by the power of your breath. Amen.

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

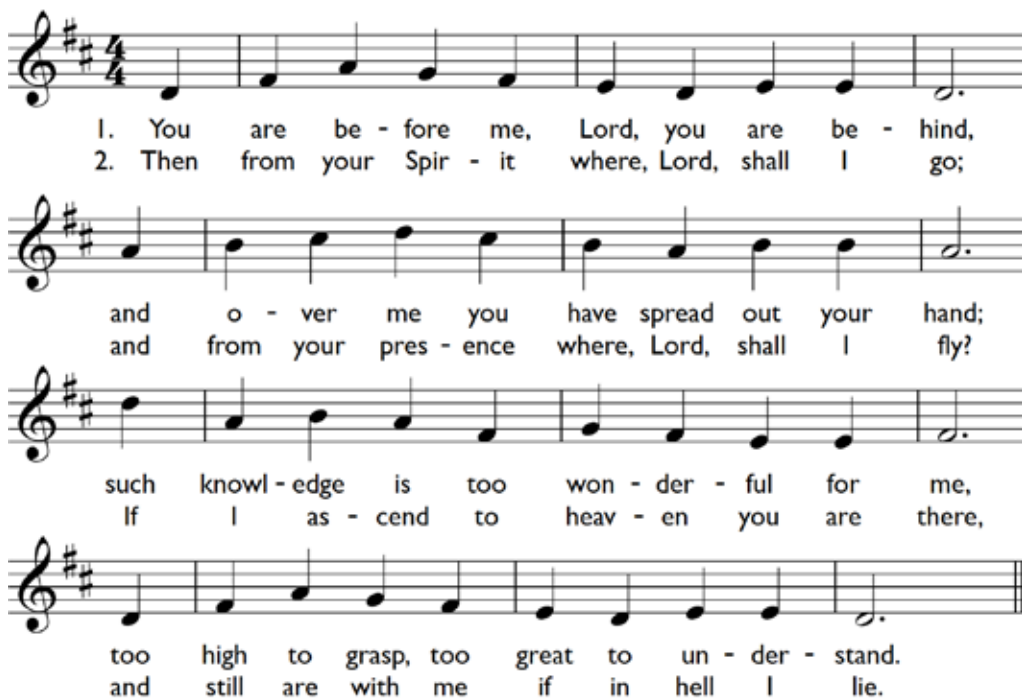
Diana Holbert

THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

You Are Before Me, Lord

Glory to God No. 28



1. You are be - fore me, Lord, you are be - hind,
2. Then from your Spir - it where, Lord, shall I go;
and o - ver me you have spread out your hand;
and from your pres - ence where, Lord, shall I fly?
such knowl - edge is too won - der - ful for me,
If I as - cend to heav - en you are there,
too high to grasp, too great to un - der - stand.
and still are with me if in hell I lie.

Words: © 1973 Ian Pitt-Watson
Music: SURSUM CORDA, Alfred Morton Smith, 1941
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Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house, and of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you."

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

You Are Before Me, Lord

**Glory to God
No. 28**

3. If I should take my flight in - to the dawn,
4. If I should say, "Let dark - ness cov - er me,
if I should dwell on o - cean's far - thest shore,
and I shall hide with - in the veil of night,"
your might - y hand will rest up - on me still,
sure - ly the dark - ness is not dark to you:
and your right hand will guard me ev - er - more.
the night is as the day, the dark - ness light.

Words: © 1973 Ian Pitt-Watson
Music: SURSUM CORDA, Alfred Morton Smith, 1941
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O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
 you discern my thoughts from afar.
 You search out my path and my lying down,
 and are acquainted with all my ways.
 Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord,
 you know it altogether.
 You pursue me behind and before,
 and lay your hand upon me.
 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
 it is high, I cannot attain it.
 Whither shall I go from your spirit?
 Or whither shall I flee from your presence?
 If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
 If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
 If I take the wings of the morning
 and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
 even there your hand shall lead me,
 and your right hand shall hold me.
 If I say, "Let only darkness cover me,
 and the light about me be night,"
 even the darkness is not dark to you,
 the night is bright as the day;
 for darkness is as light with you.
 Search me, O God, and know my heart!
 Try me and know my thoughts;
 and see if there be any wicked way in me,
 and lead me in the way everlasting!

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

You Are Before Me, Lord

**Glory to God
No. 28**

5. Search me, O God; search me and know my heart;
 try me, O God; my mind and spir - it try;
 keep me from an - y path that gives you pain,
 and lead me in the ev - er - last - ing way.



THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO PRAYER

Seek Ye First

Karen Lafferty

Sanctuary Singers

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And God's righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Alleluia, alleluia!*

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD

Nancy Price

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

Diana Holbert

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

Draw the Circle Wide (excerpt)

Mark Miller

Summer Choir

*Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.*

*Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. L
et this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE**Praise God for This Holy Ground****Worship & Song****No. 3009***Please stand as you are able.*

I. Praise God for this ho - ly ground,
place and peo - ple, sight and sound.

Refrain
Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! God's
good - ness is e - ter - nal.

Words: John L. Bell
Music: HEYMONYSTRAAT; John L. Bell
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PRAYER OF DEDICATION**Diana Holbert****THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE****HYMN****Nearer, My God, to Thee****United Methodist Hymnal****No. 528***Please stand as you are able.*

1. Near - er, my God, to thee, near - er to thee!
3. There let the way ap - pear, steps un - to heaven;
E'en though it be a cross, that rais - eth me,
all that thou send - est me, in mer - cy given;
still all my song shall be, near - er, my God, to thee;
an - gels to beck - on me, near - er, my God, to thee;
near - er, my God, to thee, near - er to thee!
near - er, my God, to thee, near - er to thee!

Words: Sarah F. Adams, 1841 (Gen. 28:10-22)
Music: BETHANY; Lowell Mason, 1856
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Diana Holbert

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please remain seated.

Carillon

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Peter Fennema

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert (she/her), *Minister of Care*

Sanctuary Music Leadership

Dr. Andrew Schultz, *Director of Sanctuary Music*
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

Mary Garbesi
Janet Hoskins
Nancy Price

Production Team

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

STAFF OUT TODAY

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

New Requests

- Norris Pratt & Family
- The Family of Ron Lyster who passed away July 16th

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- Jerry Whittemore
- 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

"Hospitality With God" - Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert

Today, July 19th (10:30am) Upstairs in The Loft

How does greed or emptiness get in the way of offering hospitality to God? And what can we do?

WISDOM *at* WESTWOOD



WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

"Heaven's Gate: Jacob's Ladder, Jacob's Vision, Angels, Heaven & All of That"

Today, July 19th (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom

Come join our discussion of angels, dreams, knowledge, ladders, heaven as Reg Gipson leads us in exploring the wisdom that can be gained by a close reading of Genesis 28 and Psalms 139. You'll discover what you never learned in Sunday School, and you might just be surprised!

Join the *SUMMER CHOIR!*



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.)



In partnership with
LA VOICE

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY TEAM (CAT)

Sunday, July 19th (12:15pm) Room 207

We are dedicated specifically to legislative action and political organizing work, often in partnership with LA Voice, an interfaith organizing cohort in Los Angeles. This week, we'll discuss voter engagement and introduction to the legislative portal to encourage our representatives to pass laws that support the dignity of all and how to harness economic power via considered boycotts when we witness companies holding contracts with ICE and CBP, or other entities we watch acting immorally. Join CAT during their monthly meetings to learn more about how you can get involved in working towards lasting change in our city and beyond. For more information, contact cat@westwoodumc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATHERING IN GRACE: WOMEN'S GROUP LUNCH & LEARN

Saturday, August 1st (11am-12:30pm) Helms Hall

All women of the Westwood community (and friends!) are warmly invited to join us for a morning of fellowship, shared food, and meaningful connection.

Our Gathering & Mission Spotlight: This month, we are honored to welcome representatives from EPIC (Echo Park Immigration Center). They will be sharing about their vital ministry and how they support families in our broader Los Angeles community. As a community of faith, we want to put our love into action. Our goal is to sponsor up to \$1,000 toward EPIC's Back-to-School backpack drive, helping immigrant children start their school year with feelings of confidence and belonging by providing the tools they need to thrive.

How to Support: Scan the QR code in the upper right to make a donation online, or you can bring a donation (cash or check) to the lunch.

Nourishing One Another (With a Touch of Stewardship!): We will be sharing a potluck lunch together. Please bring a small dish to share. In the past, our generous hearts have led to beautifully massive amounts of extra food. This month, we're practicing gentle stewardship by keeping our portions small so we can enjoy a simple, nourishing meal together without leaving excess waste.

To Request Childcare: Simply let us know when you RSVP by Tuesday, July 28th, so we can have our wonderful care team ready to welcome your little ones. RSVP To help us prepare the space, please let us know you are coming by emailing sabrina@westwoodumc.org. We can't wait to share this table with you!



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.



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.)



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.

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

