



The Sanctuary

October 11, 2026

20th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Passacaglia in D Minor
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Peter Fennema

WELCOME

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

Molly Vetter

HYMN

Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here

**UM Hymnal
No. 579**

Please stand as you are able.

1. Lord God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
2. We come with self-in-flict-ed pains of bro-ken trust and
5. Lord God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your
love were made; your liv-ing like-ness still we bear, though
cho-sen wrong, half-free, half-bound by in-ner chains, by
joy to share; give us your Spir-it's lib-er-ty to
marred, dis-hon-ored, dis-o-beyed; we come, with all our
so-cial forc-es swept a-long, by powers and sys-tems
turn from guilt and dull de-spair, and of-fer all that
heart and mind, your call to hear, your love to find.
close con-fined, yet seek-ing hope for hu-man-kind.
faith can do, while love is mak-ing all things new.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1973; c. 1977 Hope Publishing Co.
MUSIC: CAREY'S (SURREY); Henry Carey, ca. 1723; harm. from The English Hymnal, 1906
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MORNING PRAYER

Tonia Symensma-Cohen

Please be seated.

*Holy God, you set before us every day
A bounty of good things.
Bring us to your feasting table,
Hungry for your Word,
Eager to rebuild the cities you have made,
And ready to receive strangers
So that we celebrate at all times and in all places
The peace which is life in you.
Today, we ask:
Let your Holy Spirit open our minds to your call to listen,
For we know your holy Word
Heals and reconciles your people. Amen.*

-from Feasting on the Word, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor

CHILDREN'S TIME

Molly Vetter

THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

Spirit of the Living God

UM Hymnal
No. 393



The musical score is written for four voices, each on a separate staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me." for the first and fourth staves; "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me." for the second staff; and "Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me." for the third staff. The melody is simple and repetitive, with the first and fourth staves having identical notes.

WORDS: Daniel Iverson, 1926 (Acts 11:15)
MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926. Tune: LIVING GOD
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Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Spirit of the Living God

**UM Hymnal
No. 393**

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

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SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:1-14

Molly Vetter

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his

business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Spirit of the Living God

**UM Hymnal
No. 393**



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SERMON

Persistent Joy (always)

Molly Vetter



THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO PRAYER

Be Still, My Soul

Sanctuary Singers

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957), text by Katharina von Schlegel (1697-1777)

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

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.WestwoodUMC.org/Give.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Spirit of Life

Chancel Choir

Jane Marshall (1924-2019)

*Spirit of Life, in this new dawn,
 Give us the faith the follows on,
 Letting thine all pervading power
 Fulfill the dream of this high hour.*

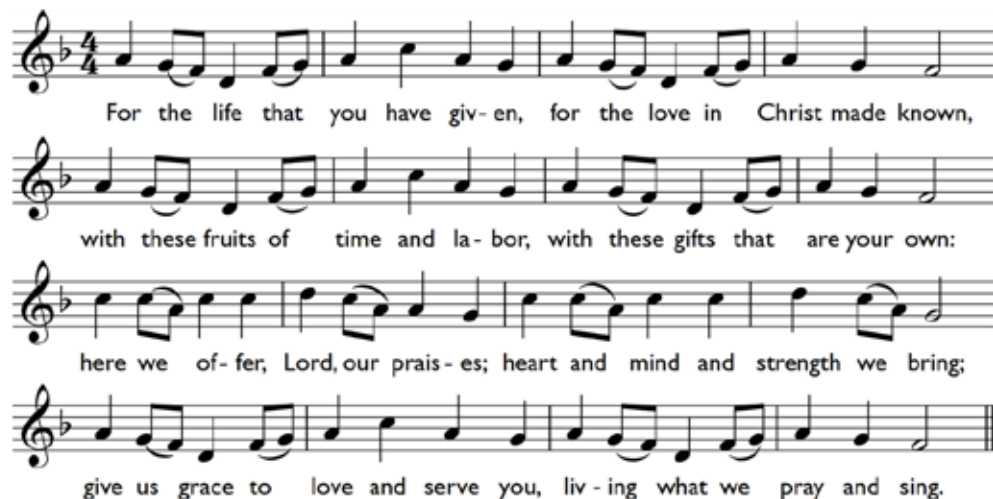
*Spirit Creative, give us light,
 Lifting raveled mists of night;
 Touch thou our dust with spirithand
 And make us souls that understand.*

*Spirit Consoling, let us find
 thy hand when sorrows leave us blind;
 In the gray valley let us hear
 thy silent voice: "Lo, I am near."*

*Spirit Redeeming, give us grace
 When crucified to seek thy face;
 To read forgiveness in thine eyes
 today with thee in paradise.*

*Spirit of Love, at evening time,
 When weary feet refuse to climb,
 Give us thy vision, eyes that see
 Beyond the dark, the dawn and thee.*

ABOUT THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Today's anthem sets "Spirit of Life, in This New Dawn," a 1927 hymn text by Methodist theologian and poet Earl B. Marlatt, longtime professor at Southern Methodist University. Across its stanzas, Marlatt calls on the Holy Spirit as the giver of faith, light, grace, comfort, and love; the "new dawn" points both to God's presence among us now and to the hope of life eternal. The choir sings a setting by Jane Marshall, the beloved Dallas church musician and composer whose anthems remain cherished throughout United Methodist worship..

OFFERTORY RESPONSE**For the Lift That You Have Given****Glory to God****No. 717***Please stand as you are able.*


For the life that you have giv-en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la-bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of-fer, Lord, our prais-es; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, liv-ing what we pray and sing.

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987; c. 1990 Hope Publishing Company
Music: PLEADING SAVIOR, Leavitt's Christian Lyre, 1830/31
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PRAYER OF DEDICATION**Molly Vetter****THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE****HYMN****Come Down, O Love Divine****UM Hymnal****No. 475***Please remain standing as you are able.*


1. Come down, O Love di-vine, seek thou this soul of
2. O let it free-ly burn, till earth-ly pas-sions
3. And so the yearn-ing strong, with which the soul will
mine, and vis-it it with thine own ar-dor glow-ing;
turn to dust and ash-es in its heat con-sum-ing;
long, shall far out-pass the power of hu-man tell-ing;
O Com-for-ter, draw near, with-in my heart ap-
and let thy glo-rious light shine ev-er on my
for none can guess its grace, till Love cre-ate a
pear, and kin-dle it, thy ho-ly flame be-stow-ing.
sight, and clothe me round, the while my path il-lum-ing.
place where-in the Ho-ly Spir-it makes a dwell-ing.

WORDS: Bianco of Siena, 1851; trans. by Richard F. Littledale, 1867, alt.
MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 DOWN AMPNEY
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Molly Vetter

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please remain seated.

Prelude and Fugue in G Minor

Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)

Peter Fennema



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.

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Pastoral Staff

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

Sanctuary Music Leadership

Dr. Andrew Schultz, *Director of Sanctuary Music*
Peter Fennema, *Organist*

Chancel Choir Section Leaders

Lexy Jensen (she/her), *guest soprano*
Carmen Edano (she/her), *alto*
Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor*
Abram Poliakoff (he/him), *guest tenor*
Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*
Georgia Madland (she/her), *choral scholar*

Liturgists

Mary Garbesi
Stephanie Lange
Tonia Symensma-Cohen

Production Team

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

Flowers are on the Altar

Given by Judy Wessling and Family in loving memory
of Bob Wessling.

STAFF OUT TODAY

Trinity Del Regno (she/her), *soprano*
Natalie Fishman (she/her), *choral scholar*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Ongoing Prayer Request

- For the family of Jerry Whittemore
- Cheryl Downey
- The Family of Beth Thomas
- Alana Miles & Family
- Janet Hoskins
- Kelly O'Brien
- Joy Bennett Koupal
- Gloria Forio
- Diana Park
- Paul & Dorene Rutter
- Bukola Gbadamosi
- Judy Wessling
- 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.**

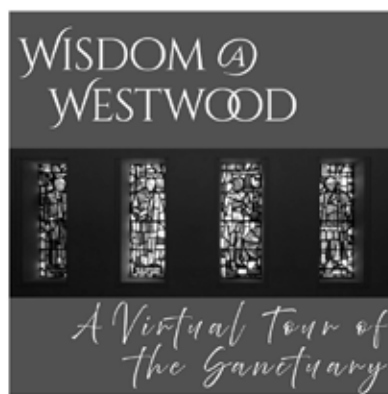
TODAY AT WESTWOOD UMC



THE LOFT: "Unlearning The Lies About Our Bodies" (10:30am) in The Loft with Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter

There are cultural mirrors all around us, telling us in obvious and subtle ways that there is a right way to have a body - and it's something other than the body we have. What Jesus shows us in his Sermon on the Mount is that rather than reflecting our bodies back to us, those mirrors show how society values all those who bear the image of God.

Conversation Question: If you could go back and tell your younger self something loving about your body, what age would you go back to? What would you say?



Wisdom at Westwood: A Virtual Tour of the Sanctuary Today (11am) in the Wesley Room and via Zoom

As part of our "Virtual Tour of the Sanctuary" series, Nancy Price will present some of the "Cloud of Witnesses" in the upper clerestory windows of the Sanctuary. Learn about the people who came after the Bible and continued to spread the news of God's love.



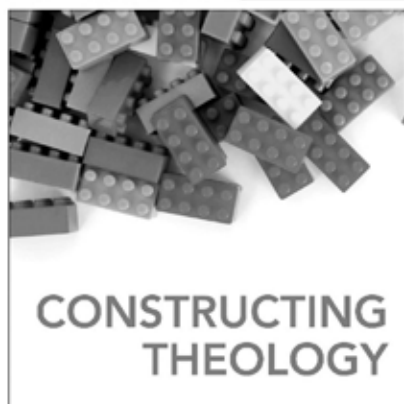
This Sunday at Westwood UMC, join us for a beloved annual tradition - the annual Fall Festival! With rain in the forecast, we've decided to move the celebration indoors. Drop off your chili or dessert in Wesley Room; we will set up the serving line in Helms Hall, with tables there and in the Loft.

FALL FESTIVAL DAY SCHEDULE

- 9:30am - Sanctuary Gathering with Pastor Molly
- 10:30am - Loft Gathering with Dr. Carter
- 9:30-11:45am - Westwood Kids & Grapple Group
- 11-12noon - Wisdom at Westwood
- 12pm - FALL FESTIVAL TIME in Helms Hall & The Loft

Fall Festival Games for children will happen during Westwood Kids time on the first floor of the education building from 11:15am-12noon and hosted by the Grapple Group. We encourage families to eat together!

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONSTRUCTING THEOLOGY

Starts Sunday, October 18th (9:30-10:15am) Wesley Room

How do your beliefs shape the way you practice Christianity? In this four-week class led by Rev. Dr. Carter, participants will be invited to explore their beliefs about Scripture, God, Jesus, and salvation. Each week, we will cover a theological category by watching a sermon, engaging a short reading, and reflecting on journal questions to help you discover how your faith informs your practice.



WESTWOOD WOMEN'S POTLUCK LUNCH

Saturday, October 24th (11am) Helms Hall

Please join us for our Women's Group for our quarterly potluck. We will have a gathering and fellowship time for about 30 to 40 minutes and then enjoy lunch together. Bring a dish to share and invite a friend, all are welcome! RSVP to Sabrina Simmons at sabrina@westwoodumc.org.



ALL SAINTS' DAY

Sunday, November 1st in The Sanctuary (9:30am) and Loft (10:30am)

On All Saints' Day, we give thanks to God for all those who have gone before us, remembering and celebrating their influence on our lives. You are invited to bring mementos (photos, an object, a written page) of your saints and loved ones to place on an altar during worship that day. Items may be retrieved at the end of the worship gathering. If you lost a loved one this year and would like to include them in our Sanctuary All Saints litany and worship guide, please email sabrina@westwoodumc.org by Wednesday, October 28th.



VIGILS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

Sunday, Nov. 1st (4pm) Westwood United Methodist Church

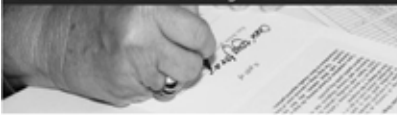
All are invited to as we come together alongside our Westside Mission Area friends and neighbors for three "Vigils for Justice and Peace" this Fall. Join us as we gather in prayer, witness, and hope for our communities and our world. Our last vigil will be held Sunday, Nov. 1st in the Westwood UMC Sanctuary.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Scattered for Service

alternative & fair-trade gifts for Christmas



SAVE THE DATE: SCATTERED FOR SERVICE 2026

Sundays, Nov. 8 & 15 (before and after worship) in Helms Hall

Join us November 8 & 15 for a fair-trade Christmas market in Helms Hall; our catalog of alternative gifts will be available starting November 8 and continuing through the New Year. Have a non-profit organization you work with and think we should include in our catalog this year? We are always looking for new groups with a connection to our congregation and our shared mission. To recommend one, contact Ellen Agee at ebea9999@gmail.com.



SING WITH THE CHANCEL CHOIR!

Thursday nights (7:30pm) in the Choir Room

Love to sing? Come join the Sanctuary Chancel choir! Whether you're an experienced singer or just enjoy making music, there's a place for you. Come share your voice and be part of something special! For more information, email Dr. Andrew Schultz, *Director of Sanctuary Music*, at andrew@westwoodumc.org



SEEKING NOMINATIONS: Church Committees

Every year, our Nominations Committee has the responsibility of identifying and recruiting a diverse and inclusive slate of nominees for 3-year terms on our administrative committees, which are responsible for our church governance. **We invite you to let us know via the QR code if you are interested in serving, or if there is someone you would want to nominate to serve starting in 2027.** Our five administrative committees include: Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, Church Council, Trustees, Stewardship and Finance, and Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). We are always happy to help connect volunteer leaders to other ministries and teams, too.



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
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