

November 8, 2026 **24th Sunday after Pentecost**

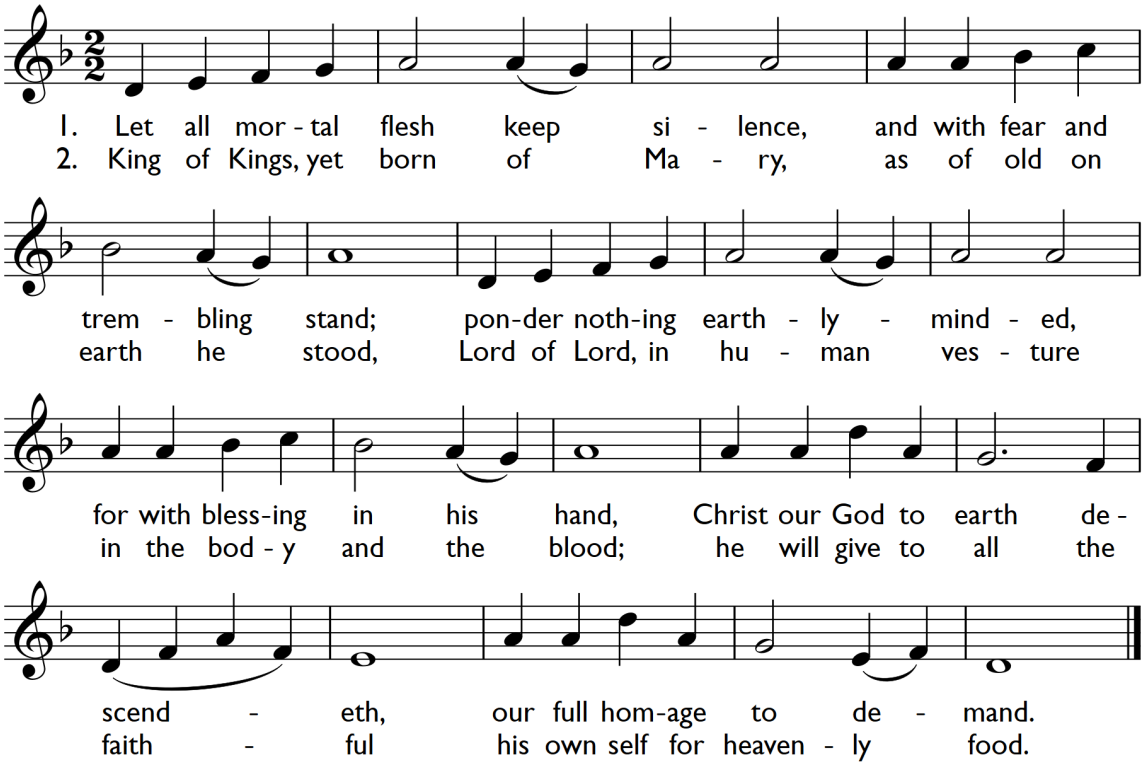
PRELUDE ***Antiphon III*** **Peter Fennema**
Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

WELCOME **Molly Vetter**

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

HYMN ***Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*** **UM Hymnal No. 626**

Please stand as you are able.



WORDS: Liturgy of St. James, 4th cent.; trans. by Gerard Moultrie, 1864 (Jn. 6:35-58; Rev. 4)
MUSIC: PICARDY, French carol melody; arrangement by Fred Gramann
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MORNING PRAYER **Nancy Price**

Please be seated.
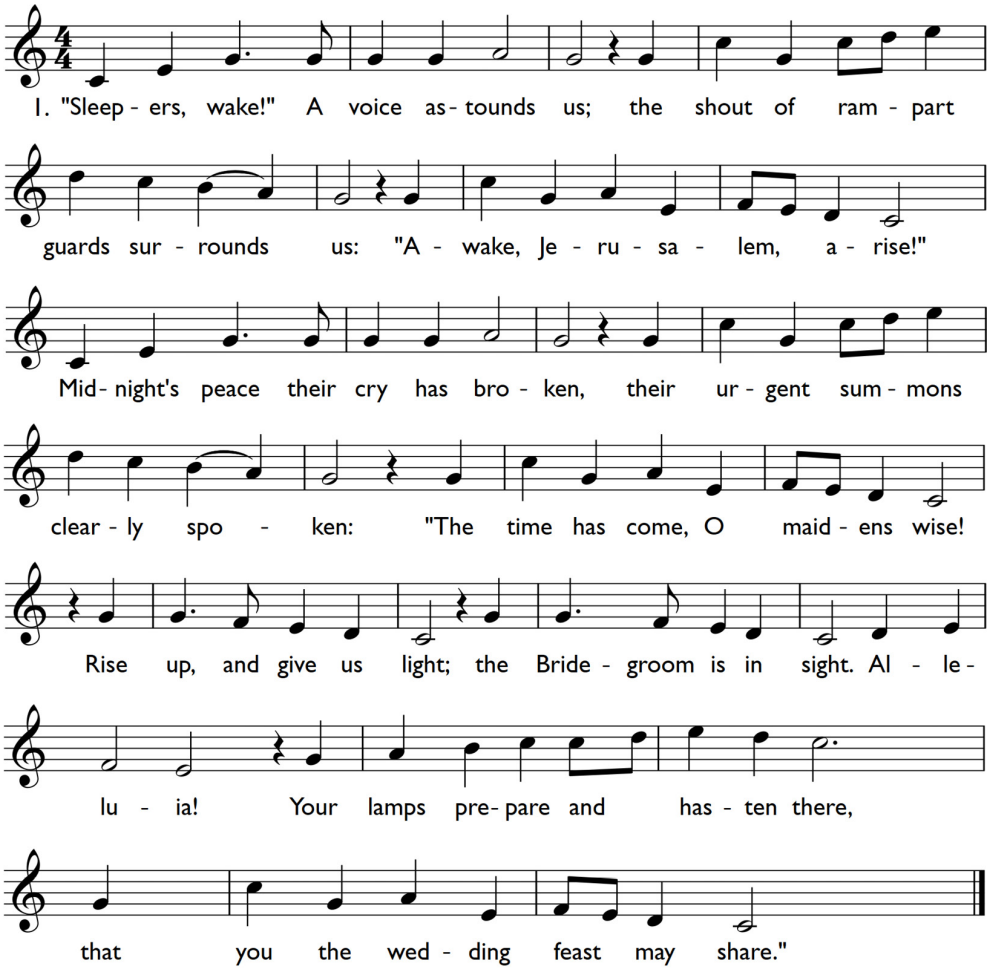
O great and loving God,
Your wisdom is radiant and unfading,
Easily discerned by all who seek your way.
When faithful people live in love and work for justice,
Heaven breaks into earth.
Give us the grace to live confidently and expectantly,
Trusting that the Lord of history,
Who has been approaching from all eternity,
Comes into life continually with compassion, redemption, and love.
Amen.

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

CHILDREN'S TIME **Molly Vetter**

THE COMMUNITY **INTERACTS** WITH THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN ***Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us*** **Glory to God No. 349**
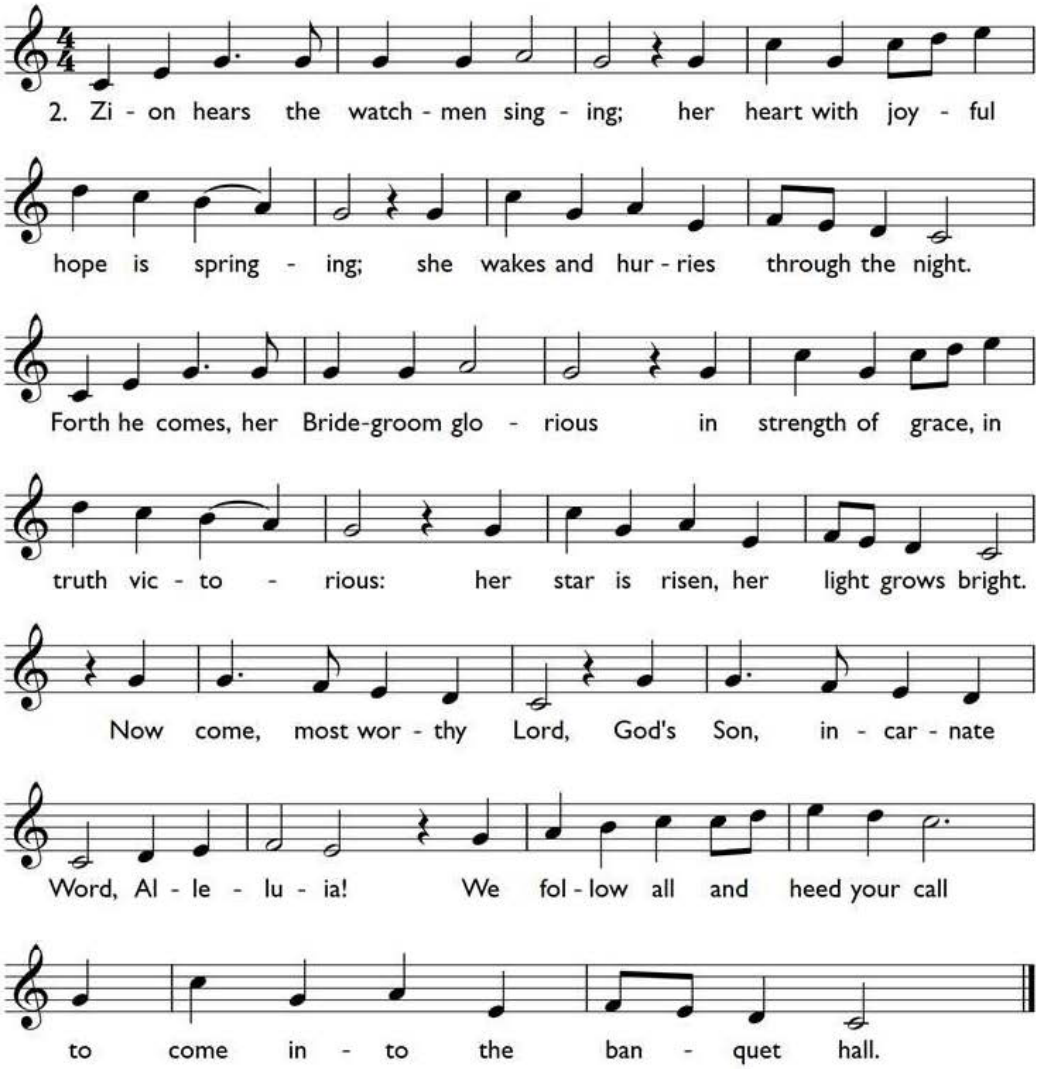


SCRIPTURE READING **Psalm 78:1-7** **Rhonda K. Lawrence**

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might
and the wonders that he has done.

He established a decree in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children,
that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;

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

HYMN ***Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us*** **Glory to God No. 349**
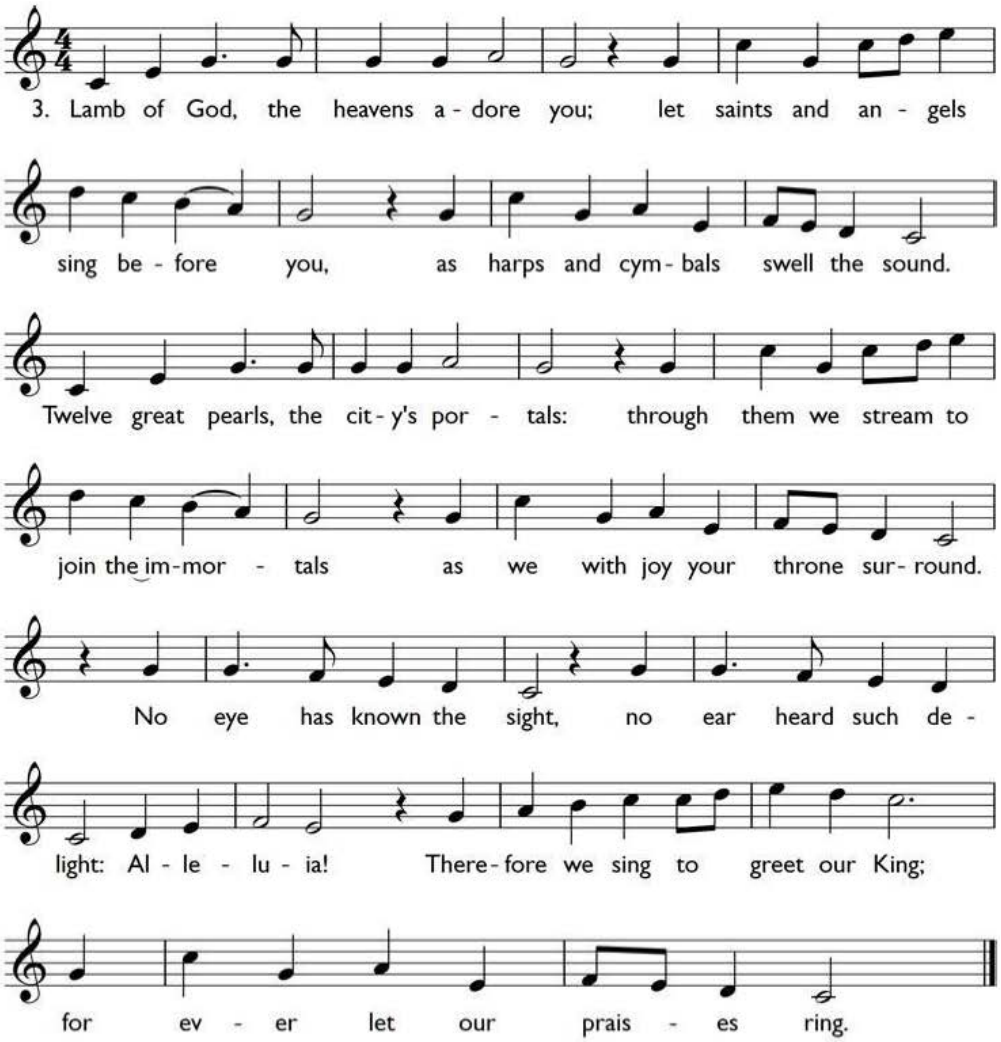


Words: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; trans. Carl P. Daw, Jr. 1982, © 1982 *Hope Publishing Co.*
Music: WACHET AUF; Attr. Philipp Nicolai, 1599; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1731
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SCRIPTURE READING **Matthew 25:1-13** **Molly Vetter**

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

HYMN ***Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us*** **Glory to God No. 349**



SERMON ***Committed to Community*** **Molly Vetter**

THE COMMUNITY **RESPONDS** TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO PRAYER ***Keep Your Lamps!*** **Sanctuary Singers**
arr. André Thomas (b. 1952)

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.
Christian, journey soon be over,
the time is drawing nigh.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD **Jo Schiff**

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.Westwood UMC.org/Give**.

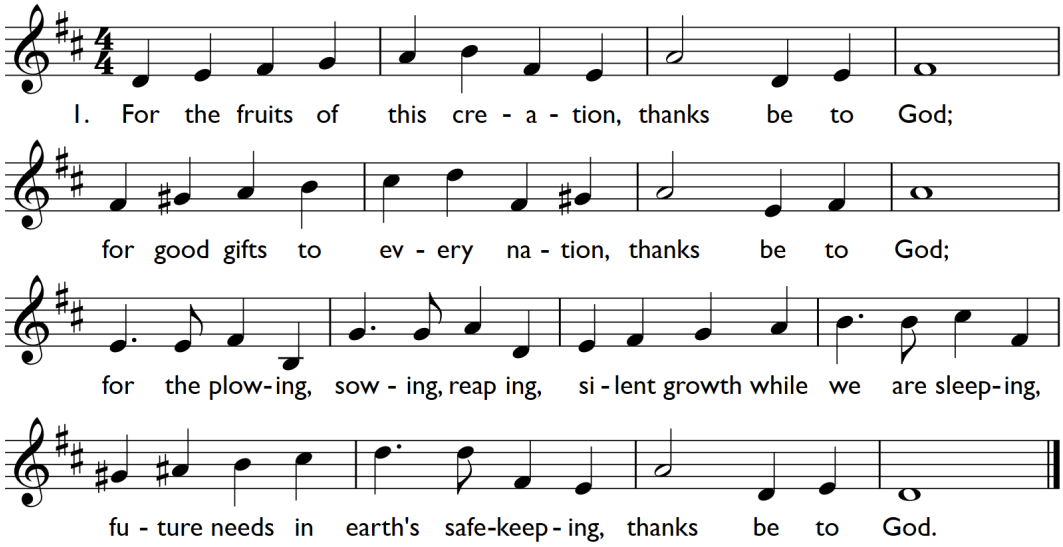
OFFERTORY ANTHEM ***My Lord, What a Mournin'*** **Chancel Choir**
Spiritual, arr. Eli Villanueva

My Lord, what a mournin',
When the stars begin to fall.

You will hear the trumpet sound
To wake the nations underground.
Lookin' to my God's right hand
When the stars begin to fall.

You will hear the sinner cry
To wake the nations underground.
Lookin' to my God's right hand
When the stars begin to fall.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE ***For the Fruits of This Creation*** **UM Hymnal No. 97**



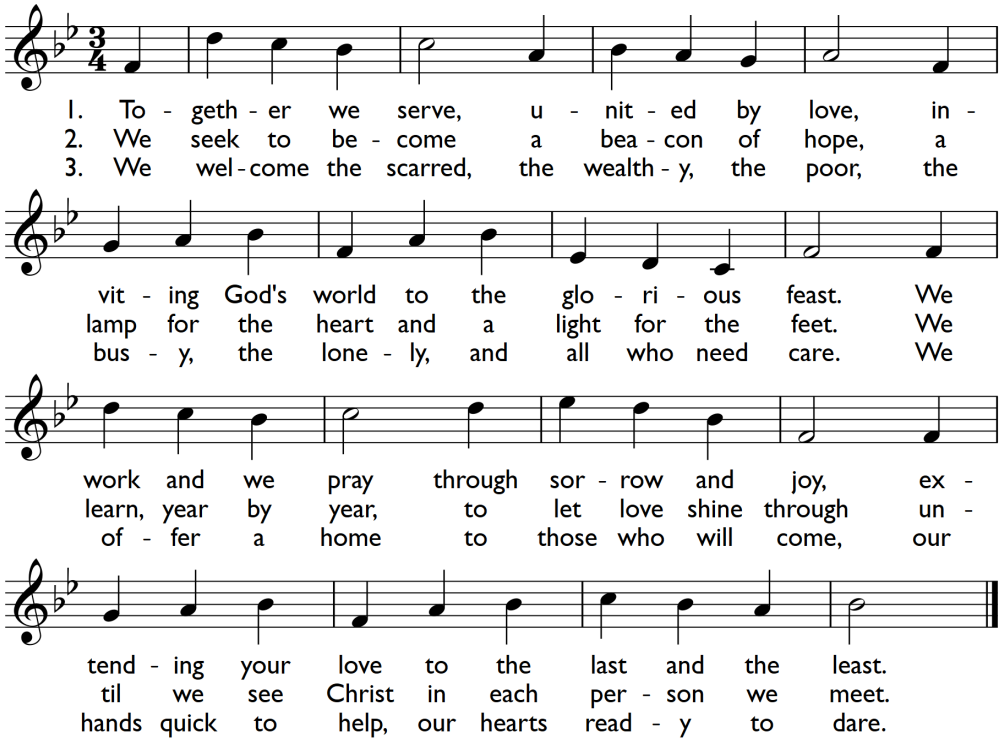
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Music: EAST ACKLAM; Francis Jackson, 1957; © 1960 Francis Jackson
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PRAYER OF DEDICATION **Molly Vetter**

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH **GOES OUT TO SERVE**

HYMN ***Together We Serve*** **The Faith We Sing No. 2175**

Please remain standing as you are able.



WORDS: Daniel Charles Damon
MUSIC: SAN ANSELMO, Daniel Charles Damon
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ANNOUNCEMENTS **Molly Vetter**

Please be seated.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE ***Gloria*** **Peter Fennema**

Please remain seated. Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC: Much of today's music comes straight from Jesus's parable of the bridesmaids waiting with their lamps for the bridegroom. Philipp Nicolai wrote "Sleepers, Wake!" (WACHET AUF) in 1599 directly on this parable. The Sanctuary Singers' "Keep Your Lamps!", arranged by André Thomas, is a spiritual built on the same story.

The Chancel Choir sings "My Lord, What a Mournin'," arranged by Eli Villanueva, with a spelling found as early as the first published collection of spirituals in 1867 and later used by scholar John W. Work in 1940. Sung aloud, "morning" and "mourning" sound alike, and the song holds both: the morning of God's coming, and the mourning of those caught unprepared, much like the bridesmaids in today's Gospel.

Today's prelude and postlude also began as music passed along by ear. In 1919 Marcel Dupré improvised them during a Vespers service at Notre-Dame in Paris, and an English listener was so moved that he asked Dupré to write them down so others could play them. Antiphon III is based on a verse from the Song of Songs, a book of love poetry between bride and groom, and the Gloria closes the set.

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
Trinity Del Regno (she/her), *soprano*
Carmen Edano (she/her), *alto*
Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor*
Brian McCormick (he/him), *guest tenor*
Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*
Georgia Madland (she/her), *choral scholar*
Natalie Fishman (she/her), *choral scholar*

Liturgists
Rhonda K. Lawrence
Nancy Price
Jo Schiff

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

Flowers are on the Altar
Given by the Cline Family in loving memory of Regina Cline.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

New Requests
- Earle Hager

Ongoing Prayer Request
- 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.

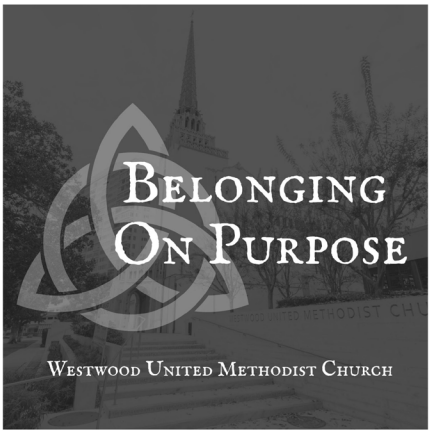
These requests are held in prayer by the pastoral staff and by the prayer chain. You are encouraged to join in praying for them by name.

To submit a prayer request, please go to www.westwoodumc.org/care.

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: "Committed to Community"
(10:30am) in The Loft and via YouTube Livestream
In a culture that valorizes rugged individualism, we often think that committing to community is unnecessary. Yet when we listen to the wisdom of our bodies, we know that community feels essential to our survival - because it is. As both Jesus and Paul remind us, when we choose to belong on purpose, we practice how to love, the greatest spiritual gift the Beloved has given us.

Conversation Question: What communities and/or organizations do you belong to beyond the church that are important to you? How does your involvement shape, inform, and deepen your faith?



WISDOM AT WESTWOOD: "Something Old, Something New"
Today (11am) in the Wesley Room and via Zoom
Reread Matthew 25:1-13 in light of the English Victorian-era wedding dressing advice: "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue, and a sixpence in your shoe." How did a Jewish rabbi 2,000 years ago draw on the experience of then current marriage customs to provoke his listeners? Join us this Sunday as Reg Gipson leads a discussion of how our beloved community maintains continuity with the past and hope about the future. And, by the way, some things can be borrowed, others, perhaps not. Some things can be put off, others, perhaps not - let's talk about it!



SCATTERED FOR SERVICE RETURNS!
Sundays, November 8th & 15th (8:30am to 1pm) Upper Helms Hall
Transform lives by giving thoughtful gifts to friends and family during Christmas. Shop for beautifully crafted and delicious fair-trade products, which support artisans and growers, helping them earn a sustainable living. We also offer alternative gift options by supporting life-affirming organizations at www.ScatteredforService.com (available throughout Advent).

Volunteer Opportunities - we will be setting up Nov 4th-7th with flexible times. Come join in the fun and get a sneak peek and the beautiful Fair Trade options! If you are interested in volunteering to help with setup, take-down, and during the sale, please contact Ellen Evans Agee at ebea9999@gmail.com or Nancy Hill at nljhill88@gmail.



We Rise Together: EPIC's 5th Annual Gala
Sunday, Nov. 8th (3-6pm) at Pico House (424 N. Main St., LA)
Join EPIC's biggest fundraising event of the year as we celebrate five years of impact, belonging, and community leadership! Enjoy inspiring stories from immigrant leaders on the front lines, live art, cultural performances, and food while supporting immigrant youth, families, and caregivers across Los Angeles.

Every ticket & dollar raised helps fund youth leadership, caregiver initiatives, community education, legal support, housing, and emergency assistance. Together, we're building a community of care, resilience, and change - join us! **RSVP: bit.ly/EPICGala2026**



Join the Chancel Choir for Thanksgiving Sunday & Handel's Messiah!
Sundays, Nov. 15th & 29th (10:45am-11:45am) in the Choir Room
Love to sing but can't make Thursday evening rehearsals? We'd love to have you! This season we're offering two Sunday rehearsals for anyone whose schedule keeps them away on Thursdays.

Here's how it will work: Attend November 15 and sing with us on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22 (9:15am call). Attend both November 15 and 29 and join us for Part 1 of Handel's Messiah with chamber orchestra on Sunday, December 6 (8:45am call). No audition needed; just bring your voice and a love of singing. Questions? Need the music in advance? Contact Dr. Andrew Schultz, Director of Sanctuary Music, at andrew@westwoodumc.org.



Queer Group is Back!
Today, Nov. 8th (12pm) on the Courtyard
This Sunday our regular Queer Group gathering on the Courtyard returns! Come by the Courtyard at 12pm and hang out with us.

And be sure to join us for Queer Bible Study on Tuesday, Nov. 10th (6:30pm) in the Grapple Room - Dinner will be served so bring your appetites! We'll be reading and talking about Isaiah 43. Contact Everest (everest@westwoodumc.org) for more details and to RSVP.



Grapple Friendsgiving
Friday, November 13 at 6:00pm
Join us for the first ever Grapple Friendsgiving! Contact Everest (everest@westwoodumc.org) to RSVP, sign up to bring a dish, and get location info (HINT: the event will be off campus).

Stay up to date on all the Grapple events: https://westwoodumc.org/grapplegroup/



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.West-woodUMC.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.



THANKSGIVING SUNDAY - November 22nd
10am - One Worship Gathering in The Sanctuary
11:20am - Community Meal in The Loft

Join us for our annual tradition of one, combined worship gathering on Thanksgiving Sunday, as we celebrate generosity. With musical leadership from our organ, the Sanctuary Choir, and the Loft band, Pastor Molly will preach. We are invited to choose to be committed to our work together, a choice that values inclusion. This commitment comes from our belief that every person bears the image of God, and it invites us to use the God-image in each of us for the sake of others.

Following our combined worship gathering in the Sanctuary, join us for the annual Thanksgiving Luncheon community meal in the Loft and Helms Hall.

This year, the church will be providing turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and tamales for everyone. **We encourage you to bring a side dish, salad, and/or dessert to share with the community.** It will be a time to celebrate and honor our gratitude, and an opportunity to make new friends.

We also need volunteers to help organize food as people drop off their dishes as well as helpers to clean up after the festivities. **To let us know what dish you're bringing or if you can help, scan the QR code!**

It will be a special time to celebrate and honor our gratitude, and an opportunity to make new friends!



Set a Giving Goal to the Church for 2027

Westwood United Methodist Church is an intergenerational Christian community committed to radical inclusivity, justice, compassion, and growing Jesus' beloved community. We are committed to things of value, and we invite you to choose a commitment to our ministries by setting a giving goal for 2027. This is especially important to our church ministries now; funding all the ministries we value into the coming year will require an increase in donations. You can do this online (www.westwoodumc.org/Giving/) or a physical card at church.

We encourage you to do this before Sunday, November 22 when we celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday together as a whole church, in worship at 10am.

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