

Congregational Church of Westminster West
A United Church of Christ
Christ, the King Sunday
Thanksgiving
Stewardship
November 21, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: We Gather Together – Netherlands Folk Song, arr. Chuck Sinclair

*Call to Worship

One: Come, Holy Spirit, send the wind and flame of your transforming life to lift us up this day. Give wisdom and faith that we may know the great hope to which we are called even in times of strife.

All: Let your Spirit come on us here gathered.
This is the holy place where we, your people, call on you in faith,
Joining heart and voice in wonder at your gifts for us so that we may make peace and justice a reality. We give thanks and praise to your name.

*Hymn 462: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

1. Come, ye thankful people, come
Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.

2. All the blessings of the field
All the stores the gardens yield,
All the fruits in full supply,
Ripened 'neath the summer sky
All that spring with bounteous hand
Scatters o'er the smiling land,

All that liberal autumn pours
From her rich o're flowing shores.

3. These to thee, ou God, we owe,
Source whence all our blessings flow;
And for these our souls shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home. Amen

Prayer of Confession (seated)



All: Gentle and holy God, we acknowledge to you, to one another, and to ourselves that we are not what you have called us to be. We have stifled our gifts. We have avoided opportunities to offer kindness, but have been quick to take offense.

We have pretended that we could make no contribution to hope and light in our world and have excused ourselves from risking our hearts in our own community.

Have mercy on us, forgive us our transgressions, and help us to live our lives differently. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose call to follow haunts our every prayer. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

L: God loves us, has loved us, and will love us always

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Gloria No. 756 (sung as a round: once unison, twice in parts)

Gloria, gloria in excelsis deo

Gloria, gloria alleluia, alleluia!

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 9 : 1-7

John 8 : 12

Prayers of the People

L: May the Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Joys and Concerns

Silence

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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 let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

* Hymn 461 : Let Us Hope When Hope Seems Hopeless

1. Let us hope when hope seems hopeless, when the dreams we dreamed have died. When the morning breaks in brightness, hunger shall be satisfied. One who sows the fields with weeping shall retrace the sorrowing way and rejoice in harvest bounty at the breaking of the day.
 2. Faith and hope in love's compassion will survive though knowledge cease, though the tongues of joy fall silent dull the words of prophecies. Faith shall see and trust its object hope shall set its anchor sure; love shall bloom in Love eternal. Faith and hope and love endure.
 3. Like a child outgrowing childhood setting childhood things away, we will learning to live in freedom, in the life of God's new day.
- Now we see as in a mirror. Then we shall see face to face, understand how love's compassion blossoms through amazing Grace.

Sermon: Reweaving the Fabric of the Heart with Hope, Peace, and the Giving of Thanks.

Ending Prayer of Sermon in Unison: God of Light, there can be overwhelming obscurity in this world. But you shine your light and increase joy and hope, and for your brilliance, we are grateful. Amen

Stewardship Moment: Susie Webster Toleno

Offertory:

Music: Count Your Blessings – E.O. Excell

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that Love has done.

Creator, Christ and Spirit, One.

*Prayer of Dedication:

* Hymn 476: My Life Flows On In Endless Song

1. My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I hear the sweet though far off hymn that hails a new creation. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing; It finds an echo in my soul – how can I keep from singing?
2. What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living. What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving. No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging; Since Love commands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?
3. When tyrants tremble sick with fear, and hear their death knells ringing; When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing? In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging; When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?
4. I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it; And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing; All things are mine since I am Christ's – how can I keep from singing.

*Commissioning and Benediction:

Postlude: Plenty to be Thankful For by Irving Berlin

*indicates that all who are able shall stand

Church and Community Notes

/Our pastor, Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, welcomes visits and calls, and is also happy to visit YOU in your home, workplace, hospital room or wherever. In this post-Covid-Isolation world, as we all assess what was and was not working prior to the shut-down, she is still figuring out the best way to make herself available. She sets Thursday afternoons aside for church work for sure, and is available at other times by appointment. Susie can be reached at the church (802) 387-2334 if it is not an emergency, but the fastest ways to reach her are via cell; (802) 579-8356 or email susiewt@gmail.com She reserves Mondays as her Sabbath day, holding that day aside as non-working time.

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Worship Participants:

Musician: Eric Robinson

Deacon: Sue Venman Trustees: Guy Payne, chair

Minister to the Congregation: Dr. Karen JS Blanchard

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

Upcoming services:

Nov. 28: Advent 1 David Mulholland preaching / Fred Gray music

Dec. 5: Advent 2 Susie Webster-Toleno preaching / Fred Gray music

Dec. 12: Advent 3 Adrienne Major preaching / Fred Gray music

