**Congregational Church**

**of Westminster West**

**A United Church of Christ**

May 22, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “Hear, O Lord” *Ray Rep*

\*Call to Worship

One:  We have gathered in God’s Holy presence, the One who etches  renewed faith and hope on our hearts.

**All:  This is the place where God transforms us.**

One: May we be humbled by God’s grace; the God who yearns for a place not just for a favored few, but for everyone.

**All: Let it be here and now where God will write compassion on our souls.**

One: We give thanks to God for God’s unceasing love.

**All: This is the place where God will breathe the Word into our lives.**

\*Hymn 57: O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

*O Holy Spirit, Root of life,*

*Creator, cleanser of all things,*

*Anoint our wounds, awaken us*

*With lustrous movement of your wings.*

*Eternal Vigor, Saving One,*

*You free us by your living Word,*

*Becoming flesh to wear our pain,*

*And all creation is restored.*

*O Holy Wisdom, Soaring Power,*

*Encompass us with wings unfurled,*

*And carry us, encircling all,*

*Above, below, and through the world.*

Prayer of Confession  *(seated)*

**One:**Seeking to follow God, we often wander down the wrong roads.  Impatient with God’s plan, we rush off to do things our own way.  Let us confess our lack of a spiritual vision, to be reminded that we can walk on God’s roads of faith, and hope and love in our lives.

**All: Your words are offered to us, oh God, so that we might be transformed, though we are often so focused on tasks and thoughts that further our positions and what we have been told to think is the only right way. Forgive us and continue to touch us with your steadfast love and mercy.  Show us how to be persistent in living out our faith in a love that includes everyone.**

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 unison, then twice as a round)*

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis deo!*

*Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

Scripture Lesson  Philippians 1 : 1-18a

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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

\*Hymn 202: O God, How We have Wandered

*O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;*

*In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.*

*But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,*

*As distant but compelling, you call us each by name.*

*And now at length discerning the evil that we do,*

*By faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.*

*In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring.*

*In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.*

*O God of all the living, both banished and restored,*

*Compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.*

*Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.*

*Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon and in peace.*

Reflection: “Imprisonment: views and actions”

 *Karen Blanchard*

Offertory: “What Can Wash Away My Sin?”

 *Kimberly Snow*

\*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 56: Breath of the Living God (English verses only)

*Breath of the living God, who in the beginning moved o’er the water,*

*Breath of the living God, by whom all creation was first conceived.*

*Come now and live within us, come, let your gifts enrich us,*

*Breath of the living God, our Creator Spirit, eternal Source.*

*Breath of the living God, whose eternal Word came to dwell among us,*

*Breath of the living God, by whom all creation has been renewed.*

*Come now and live within us, come, let your gifts enrich us,*

*Breath of the living God, our Creator Spirit, eternal Source.*

*Breath of the living God, source of life anew through our holy Baptism,*

*Breath of the living God, by whom all creation is sanctified;*

*Come now and live within us, come, let your gifts enrich us,*

*Breath of the living God, our Creator Spirit, eternal Source.*

\*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude “Adagio” (from “Concerto in A minor”)

 *Edvard Grieg, arr. Lani Smith*

*\*indicates that all who are able shall stand*

*Please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments downstairs following the worship service.*

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 Church and Community Notes

/Our pastor, Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, welcomes visits and calls, and is happy to visit you in your home, workplace, hospital room or wherever. Susie sets Thursday afternoons aside for church work, for sure, and is available at other times by appointment.  Susie can be reached at the church at **387-2334** if it’s 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.

Worship Participants:

Musician: Eric Robinson

Deacon on Duty: congregation volunteer

Deacon: Charlotte Gifford; Trustees: Guy Payne, Chair

Minister to the Congregation: Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno

Today:  Karen J. S. Blanchard

Ministers to the World:  The Congregation