

**Congregational Church  
of Westminster West  
A United Church of Christ**

October 27, 2024  
*Season of Pentecost*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude                      “Early Morning Rain”                      *Gordon Lightfoot*

\*Call to Worship                      *(inspired by Psalm 84, 1 Kings 8:27)*

Leader: How beautiful are the places where you dwell, O Lord!

**People: This house cannot contain your glory;  
even the heavens are bursting with the goodness of your  
presence!**

L: Happy are those who find their strength in you.

**P: Hear our prayers this day, Holy God,  
as we proclaim your praises to all the earth!**

\*Hymn No. 21                      “God Reigns O’er All the Earth”

*God reigns o’er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,  
the farms and towns in golds and browns God’s grace and beauty  
show.*

*God reigns o’er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,  
in rainbow hues — reds, yellows blues — of streams and country lanes.*

*God reigns o’er human life! Through youth and aging years,  
in death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.*

*God reigns o’er human life! Our inspiration still,  
through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God’s reigning will.*

*God reigns o’er time and space! In history’s bygone days,  
Christ’s faithful folk in reverence spoke to bring God earnest praise.*

*God reigns o’er time and space! O’er galaxy and sun,  
through timeless years the cosmos hears the heavenly music run.*

*God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day,  
in all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay.  
God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung!  
God's presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!*

Prayer of Confession (*seated*)    ✧

**All: We profess that you are God, O Holy One. We have no other gods, and yet, we do not always serve you with sincerity and faithfulness. Our “other gods” are not the ones of our ancestors—the ones beyond the River, or in Egypt, or of the Amorites. We struggle with “other gods” here and now who seek to fulfill us by consumerism and with self-importance. We hear gods who instill in us such fear of our enemies that we seek power from weapons of destruction. Help us, O God, to find fulfillment in you. Forgive us that we are skeptical of love’s transforming power. We repent of our sins and turn our hearts again to you. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

One: Even as we ebb and flow in our attention to what it is to be faithful, God is steadfast in God’s love and presence. Hear now the great Good News: it is that very love and presence, known to us in Jesus, that pours forth in the form of forgiveness, which is for you and for me and for all of Creation.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*Gloria No. 756    (*see inside back of hymnal*)

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.*

## Choir Anthem

Scripture Lessons 1 Kings 5: 1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43  
Luke 19: 45-46

\*Hymn No. 441 "Once to Every Man and Nation" Pilgrim  
*Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide,  
in the strife of truth with falsehood, for the good or evil side;  
some great cause, God's new messiah, offering each the bloom or  
blight,  
and the choice goes by forever 'twixt the darkness and the light.*

*By the light of gleaming martyrs, Jesus' bleeding feet I track,  
toiling up new Calvaries ever with the cross that turns not back;  
new occasions teach new duties, times makes ancient good uncouth;  
thy must upward still and onward, who would keep abreast of truth.*

*Though the cause of evil prosper, yet 'tis truth alone is strong,  
truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne.  
Yet that scaffold sways the future, and, behind the dim unknown,  
standeth God within the shadow keeping watch above his own.*

## Sermon

Offertory "Wer nur den leiben Gott" J S Bach

\*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 No. 312     *“We Love Your Realm, O God”  
We love your realm, O God, all places where you reign.  
We recognize, with hope and joy, the world as your domain.*

*We love your church, O God, for Christ has given life  
to form communities of love that seek to heal our strife.*

*We recognize, with pain, that we have not achieved  
the faithfulness of our resolve when we at first believed.*

*Yet Christ, our friend and guide, continues to forgive,  
delivering us from our mistakes, inviting us to live.*

*Beyond our brokenness, we seek to know your ways  
of deep communion, solemn vows, and hymns of love and praise.*

*We know your truth will last. We trust your reign is sure.  
Equip us for those daily tasks that help your world endure.*

\*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude                    *“Unbezeichnetes Stuck”                    J S Bach*



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

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



Worship Participants:

Musician: Fred Gray

Deacon: Sue Venman

Tech: Charlotte Gifford

Trustees: Guy Payne, chair

Minister to the Congregation: Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

### 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. She sets Thursday afternoons aside for church work for sure, spending that time either in the church office or visiting with parishioners; in addition, she is available at other times by appointment. *In the lead-up to early January, she will be setting aside extra time for pastoral care visits, so don't hesitate to ask for an appointment!* Susie can be reached at the church at 802-387-1175 if it's not an emergency, but the fastest ways to reach her are via cell (**802-579-8356**) or email (**[susiewt@gmail.com](mailto:susiewt@gmail.com)**). She reserves Mondays as her Sabbath day, holding that day aside as non-working time.

\*\*\*

Upcoming Events:

**Today:** Jacqueline Schwab's piano concert, "Tunes for Troubled Times" ~ **3 PM in the sanctuary**

Nov. 3: **All Saints Sunday**, Susie preaching; Fred Gray, music; communion and candle-lighting

Nov. 10: Sharon Easterling, preacher; Eric Robinson, musician; Manna Offering

Nov. 17: Charlotte Gifford preaching; Fred Gray, musician

Nov. 24: Susie preaching, Eric Robinson, musician; **Stewardship /  
Thanksgiving Sunday**

✧Attributions: Our Call to Worship was written by Amy Loving. Posted on The Worship Closet website. <http://worshipcloset.com/>. Our Prayer of Confession was written by Rev. Quentin Chin, posted on the UCC website ([www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)).