



Westwood is a  
Reconciling in Christ  
(RIC) church.

# VOCATION OF FRIENDSHIP



## Welcome to 11 am Worship at Westwood

September 28, 2025 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Westwood is an open, affirming, and inclusive church, welcoming all who seek God.*

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**GATHERING MUSIC** "God So Loved" Hillsong Worship

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**↑ RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP**

**↑ OPENING HYMN** "Gather Us In" ELW 532

**↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
In whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

*(Silence for reflection)*

God of covenant promises, come to the help of your people, turning us from our guilt and shame to join your culture of grace. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Loving God, help us.

**When we have run away, when we have turned our backs on love,  
when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not long-term healing, help us.  
Merciful God, forgive us. When we have been selfish, when we have been mean,  
when we have closed our ears to the cries of others, forgive us.  
Powerful God, heal us. When we are so broken we cannot move,  
when we don't know how to stem the bleeding of our wounds,  
when we are too ashamed to seek community, heal us.  
Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope to accept your grace  
and hear your call in Christ. Amen.**

Friends, hear this good news. God, who is rich in mercy, chose us, loves us, and appointed us to go and bear fruit. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

**↑ GREETING**

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ,  
and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Loving God, **you have claimed us as your own and drawn us into your culture of grace. By your Spirit may we accept your call to lead and live our lives with humble courage, truthful curiosity, and unconditional love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**BAPTISM** Georgia Anne Robinson, child of Angela and Garret Robinson

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** "Holy Angels" Sara Thomsen (*Children invited forward*)

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Galatians 6:1-6

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

**SONG** "Holy Angels" Sara Thomsen (*Children depart for The Message*)

**GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 5:21-24 (NRSV)

**SERMON** Pastor Sarah

**MOMENT FOR QUIET REFLECTION**

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**↑ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**↑ SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (*Children return to worship*)

**OFFERING**

**↑ OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Merciful God, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**↑ INVITATION TO COMMUNION & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**↑ LORD'S PRAYER**

**DISTRIBUTION MUSIC** "Almighty God" All Sons & Daughters

**↑ BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

**↑ SENDING SONG** "Turning Over Tables" The Brilliance

**↑ PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE**

O God, **you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**↑ DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Love all. Be a good neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**