



WESTWOOD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Westwood is a
Reconciling in Christ
(RIC) church!

Welcome to Summer Worship at Westwood

June 16, 2024 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE "Triumphal March of Heritage" Uzee Brown Jr.

CELEBRATION OF VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WESTWOOD RACIAL EQUITY STATEMENT: GOD'S VIEW AND OUR CALL

As followers of Christ, the Westwood community is called to dismantle racism by promoting a continual process of repentance, healing, and reconciliation.

We acknowledge that race shapes social structures, produces racialized disparities, and perpetuates inequitable outcomes.

We see racism as one of the most urgent issues throughout history and today.

Our commitment is rooted in the belief that all God's children are valued in furthering our vocation and call to live into beloved community. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, we strive to live as "repairers of the breach."

We acknowledge that as a historically white church, we operate within and benefit from a system of privilege. We know that to more effectively live into God's call we need to work to dismantle these systems of privilege so we can see and value all of our neighbors both racially and culturally.

↑ **KYRIE** ELW 154 from *Mass No. 1* Avon Gillespie

Cantor: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy; have mercy, O Lord.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy; have mercy, O Lord.

↑ **CANTICLE OF PRAISE** "Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines On Me" Paul Vasile

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free,

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.

↑ **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, **break down the walls that separate us and unite us in bonds of love and respect.**

By your Spirit, move us to affirm the dignity of all people and to work for just laws that protect the most

vulnerable. Strengthen our convictions, that we might follow the example of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM

"City Called Heaven" Traditional Negro Spiritual, setting by Josephine Poelinitz

Audrey Lane-Getaz, soloist

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 4:26-34

WESTWOOD RACIAL EQUITY STATEMENT: OUR COMMITMENT AND PROMISE

We acknowledge that any entrenched, self-perpetuating system of oppression requires an equally tenacious commitment—a long-term personal and collective dedication to the journey, including our time and resources.

(LEFT SIDE) **Westwood commits to a process of learning, naming hard truths, and engaging in meaningful internal, interpersonal, and communal conversations around race.**

(RIGHT SIDE) **Westwood seeks to recognize how historical and contemporary racism has affected ourselves, our relationships, our church, and our community.**

Westwood's leadership is intentionally building a racial equity lens into our congregation's planning, policies, and priorities.

Westwood strives to be a catalyst for engagement, understanding, and action, creating a world aligned with God's vision for us.

God desires wholeness for all people. Following Christ's example, we seek repentance and reconciliation by investing ourselves, our time, and our resources into racial healing and systemic change.

As we seek change, we hope to also be changed. As we learn and grow along our journey, we will continually return to this statement ensuring our work and our words remain aligned with God's vision of justice.

HYMN

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" James Weldon and John Rosamond Johnson

Stanza 1: Solo (**Congregation begin singing at "Sing a song..."**)

Stanza 3: All

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

↑ SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OFFERING

"He Never Failed Me Yet" Robert Ray

↑ 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

↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

↑ LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

↑ BLESSING & BENEDICTION

↑ SENDING HYMN

"In Christ There is No East or West" ELW 650 MCKEE

↑ PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

○ 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 with good courage. Share God's love! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE "Toccatà on Good News" setting by Carl Maultsby