**Congregational Church**

**of Westminster West**

**A United Church of Christ**

January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude The Sinless One - Solemnis haec festivitas (1685)

\*Call to Worship

One: We gather in God’s Holy presence, the One who etches renewed 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 let it be now where God writes 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 #159  As with Gladness Those of Old

As with gladness those of old did the guiding start behold;

As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;

So true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,

There to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;

So may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at the manger plain and bare,

So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,

All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to you from whom they spring.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;

And when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last

Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.

**Litany of Confession**

**All**: Wise and wondrous God, we come seeking your guidance and your inspiration.

**R**: Empower us to be more able bearers of hope,

**L**: More dedicated doers of your Word,

**R**: More resourceful enablers of others,

**L**: More open channels of the faith.

**All**: We confess that when our lives are more cluttered than committed, we do not know which way to turn. Help us, when we are most lost, to find you.

**R**: Forgive our misdeeds and grant us an awareness of your will,

**L**: So that we might be possessed by a Spirit of freedom and grace.

**All**: Turn us, even against our hesitation, toward you in all that we think and do.

~**Silent prayer~**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**L**: One fact remains that does not change: God has loved you, loves you now, and will love you always. This is the good news that brings us new life.

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

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

Scripture Lessons: Matthew 6:25-34, Psalms 20:7

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 #18  Guide Me, O, My Great Redeemer

Guide me, O, my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;

I am weak, but you are mighty, hold me with your powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,

Feed me till I want no more, feed me will I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow.

Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,

Ever be my strength and shield, ever be my strength and shield.

When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.

Death of death, and hell’s destruction, land me safe on heaven’s side.

Songs of praises, Songs of praises,

I will ever sing to you, I will ever sing to you.

Sermon

Offertory Little Cornard by Martin Shaw (1915)

\*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 #164  Your Light Is Come!

Arise! Your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

Arise! Your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;

Proclaim the captive’s liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise! Your light is come! All you in sorrow born,

Bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise! Your light is come! The mountains burst in song!

Rise up like eagles on the wing; God’s power will make us strong.

\*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude   Voluntary in F by J.S. Bach

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*\*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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*Worship Participants*

Worship Leader: Susie Webster-Toleno

Musician: Fred Gray

Deacon: David MulhollandTrustees: 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. 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 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](https://mailto:susiewt@gmail.com/). She reserves Mondays as her Sabbath day, holding that day aside as non-working time.

Upcoming Events
Feb. 5: Susie preaching / Fred Gray music
Feb. 9: Deacons AM / Trustees PM
Feb. 12: Charlotte Gifford preaching / Eric Robinson music
Feb. 19: Susie preaching / Eric Robinson preaching
Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday Labyrinth Walk 7-9 PM