

**Congregational Church  
of Westminster West  
A United Church of Christ  
April 14, 2024  
Third Sunday of Easter**



*Petrus heilt einen lahmen Bettler, Matthias Gerung*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier* J.S. Bach

\*Call to Worship

One: Risen Christ, you come among us.

**All: Living One, you speak to us.**

One: Loving One, you grant us your Spirit.

**All: You who call us to bear witness: lift us up and guide us, that we may shine with your light. Alleluia!**

*Steve Garnaas-Holmes*

\*Hymn No. 533: *Children of God*

Children of God, lift hearts to one another;  
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;  
To worship rightly is to love each other,  
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

For God whom Jesus loved has truly spoken:  
The holier worship which Christ deigns to bless  
Restores the lost, and binds the spirit broken,  
And fees the widow and the parent-less.

Follow the reverent steps the great example  
Of Christ whose holy work was doing good;  
So shall the wide earth seem a holy temple,  
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

Then shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangor  
Of wild war music o'er the earth shall cease;  
Love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,  
And in its ashes plant the tree of peace.

Words by John Greenleaf Whittier (1848);  
Tune: Welwyn, by Alfred Scott-Gatty (1900)  
Prayer of Confession (*seated*)

All: Our God, we come in humility, confessing who and what we are.  
We are often unresponsive for we are afraid. When your Spirit speaks,  
we turn deaf ears, for we fear what you might call us to do. When your  
Spirit touches our lips, we close our mouths, embarrassed to speak  
your Word. When the wind of your Spirit blows, we close the windows  
of our hearts, afraid the breeze will disrupt our ordered lives. When  
the fire of your Spirit touches us, we quench the flame, afraid of the  
new life it might bring. Forgive us, O Lord.

(silence for personal confession)

## Assurance of Pardon:

One: "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

## **All: Thanks be to God.**

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

Choir anthem: *What Wonderful Love is This?*

Manna Offering for Our Place     *see insert*

## Prayers of the People

One: May the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: 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.*

Scripture: Acts 3: 1-10

\*Hymn # No. 531 *God, Speak to Me*

God, speak to me, that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let me seek  
your erring children lost and lone.

O lead me, God, that I may lead  
some wanderers along life's way;  
O feed me so that I may feed  
your hungry ones without delay.

O fill me with your fullness, God,  
your overflowing love to know;  
In glowing word and kindling thought,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.

O use me, God, use even me  
just as you will, and when, and where,  
until your blessed face I see,  
your rest, your joy, your glory share.

Message: *Moving On*

Offertory: *Variation on Pastor Pastorum* Friedrich Silcher

\*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. 247: *My Shepherd is the Living God*

My shepherd is the living God,  
I therefore nothing need;  
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams  
you settle me to feed.  
You bring my wandering spirit back  
when I forsake your ways,  
And lead me for your mercy's sake  
in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death,  
your presence is my stay;  
A word of your supporting breath  
drives all my fears away.  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,  
does still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings overflows,  
your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God  
attend me all my days;  
O may your house be my abode,  
and all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest,  
while others come and go -  
No more a stranger or a guest,  
but like a child at home.

\*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude: *Straf mich nicht* R. A. Knox, melody

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

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

## **The Manna Offering**

### Invitation to Offering

Leader: We are called to witness to the abundance in our life by sharing, so that all may have enough.

People: Just as God provided manna for God's children daily so will our daily needs be met.

L: We offer our gifts from God's abundance to our neighbors who live in scarcity, because it is God's desire that no one go hungry.

P: We give, giving thanks for the blessings we are now able to share.

### CALL TO SHARE

WORDS OF SHARING (unison) from Isaiah 58: 1-2

If we feed the hungry from God's plenty and satisfy the needs of the wretched, then our light shall rise like dawn out of darkness and our dusk be like noonday. We shall be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Hymn for Sharing "Bread in the Wilderness"

(Bring your offering for Our Place forward during the singing of the hymn, put it in the basket on the table, and return to your seat.)

## Church and Community Notes

Our pastor, the Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, welcomes visits and calls, and is also happy to visit YOU in your home, workplace, hospital room or wherever. Most weeks, she is in the church office on Thursday afternoons, and is always willing to coordinate visits at other times. She leads a brief time of prayer online on the church Facebook Page each Thursday, usually in the early afternoon, and loves to include people's prayer requests. The best way to reach Susie directly is 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.

### Worship Participants:

Service Leader: Jenny Holan, Charlotte Gifford, Susie Webster-Toleno

Musician: Fred Gray

Deacons: Sue Venman and Charlotte Gifford

Trustees: Guy Payne, chair

Minister to the Congregation: Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

### Upcoming Worship Leaders

April 21, Easter 4: Adrienne Major

April 28, Easter 5: Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno

May 5, Easter 6: Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, Holy Communion