

The Congregational Church  
of Westminster West  
A United Church of Christ  
March 9, 2025



*The Good Samaritan, Van Gogh (1890)*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Cradle of Dawn* - Libby Roderick

Introit: Ubi Caritas, *Taizé* chant

*Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est.*

*(Where there is love and charity, God is there)*

\*Call to Worship:

What does the Lord require of you?

**To do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with our God.**

What does God command of us?

**To love God with all our heart,  
and all our soul,  
and all our mind,  
and all our strength,  
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

**But to presence, and abundance,  
and grace in our struggle.**

Let us worship the God who believes in us,  
and trusts in us, and abides with us.

**Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,  
but will be beside us every step of the way.**

(by the Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy)

Hymn #394: *In Christ There Is No East or West*

1. In Christ there is no east or west,

In Christ no south or north,

But one community of love

Throughout the whole wide Earth.

2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere

Their high communion find;

God's service is the golden cord

Closebinding humankind

3. In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek  
And neither slave nor free;  
For men and women live in God  
And all are kin to me.

4. In Christ now meet both east and west,  
In Christ meet south and north;  
One joyous, true community,  
Throughout the whole wide Earth.

### **Prayer of Confession** (seated)

O Holy God,  
we come in confession for our lack of love.  
We have neither loved ourselves nor our neighbors.  
We have passed by suffering and misfortune  
because of fear or busyness or preoccupation.  
We have held prejudices against people  
as deep as those against the Samaritans.  
Heal our pains, amend our faults,  
and guide us in ways of danger and compassion,  
for we pray in the name of Jesus,  
our most beloved neighbor,  
who cared for us even to the cross.

Amen.

(Maren C. Tirabassi, *Touch Holiness*)

### **Assurance of Pardon**

\**Gloria* #758

Gloria, gloria, gloria, en las alturas a Dios! (repeat)

Y en la tierra paz para aquellos que ama Dios. (repeat)

Glory, glory, glory! Glory to God in the highest! (repeat)

And on earth be peace to all people with whom God is pleased. (repeat)

## **Manna Offering for *Our Place***

### 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.)

### **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.

\*Hymn #541: *They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?"*

1. They asked, "Who's my neighbor and whom should I love;  
For whom should I do a good deed?"

Then Jesus related a story and said,

"It's anyone who has a need, yes,  
anyone who has a need."

2. There once was a traveler set on by thieves  
Who beat him and left him to die;

A priest and a Levite each saw him in pain;

But they turned away and walked by, yes,  
they turned away and walked by.

3. A certain Samaritan then came along  
To bind up his wounds and give aid;

He took him to stay at an inn until well,

And for all the service he paid, yes,

for all the service he paid.

4. I know who's my neighbor and whom I should love,  
For whom I should do a good deed;

For Jesus made clear in the story he told,

It's anyone who has a need, yes,

anyone who has a need.

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

## Message

Offertory: *They'll Know We Are Christians by our Love* - Peter Scholtes,  
arr. Gail Smith

### \*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:

Gracious God, we give you these gifts as symbols of our lives. Receive them with love, bless them with grace and use them according to your will. You have blessed us in ways we have not expected, not even seen. Now send us out as your unnoticed angels to bless others, even our enemies, in the name and Spirit of Christ, for the sake of the healing of the world. Amen. (by the Rev. Steve Garnass-Holmes)

### Hymn #588: *Let Justice Flow like Streams*

1. Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,  
Enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.

2. Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed,  
And everflowing stream of faith translated into deed.

3. So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true,  
And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

### \*Commission and Benediction (Santa Teresa of Ávila, attributed):

Christ has no body now but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which  
He looks compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which  
He walks to do good.

Yours are the hands with which  
He blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands.

Yours are the feet.

Yours are the eyes.

You are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

May God bless us and keep us,  
May God make his face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us,  
May God lift up the light of her countenance upon us, and give us peace,  
this day and forever more. AMEN.

Postlude: *Shche ne vmerla Ukraina* - Mykhailo Verbytsky, arr. Daniel Light

\*indicates that all who are able shall stand

Worship Participants:

Musician: Eric Robinson

Deacon on Duty: Ray Huessy

Tech: Sue Venman

Trustees: Guy Payne, Chair

Service leader: Charlotte Gifford

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

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

## Church and Community Notes

As we seek a settled pastor through our search and call process, we will not be able to offer office hours as usual, but the Deacons (Karen Blanchard, Charlotte Gifford, Ray Huessy, Adrienne Major, and Sue Venman) are available to support the congregation. You can leave a message on the church number (802-387-1175) or you can contact a deacon directly. In case of pastoral emergency, a deacon will call on the Rev. Shawn Bracebridge (pastor of the Dummerston UCC), and help a person in need get in contact with him. For all questions of church building use, please contact Tom Griffith.

### **Upcoming Events:**

March 13 at 7pm: replay of the first documentary in the WW 2 series

March 16: Lent 2, Ray Huessy

March 23: Lent 3, Adrienne Major

March 30: Lent 4, Karen Blanchard