

Congregational Church of Westminster West
A United Church of Christ

April 20, 2025

On this Easter Sunday, a Journey
from Gethsemane to the Empty Tomb

** : all who are able, please stand*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Passion Hymn” (J.S. Bach)

Call to Worship: Psalm 22: 1-5

First Reading: Luke 22: 39-44

[Silence]

***Opening Hymn:** “Love Divine” (score on the back of this page)

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of Heav’n to Earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev’ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver; Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy host above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory till in Heav’n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!
Amen.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



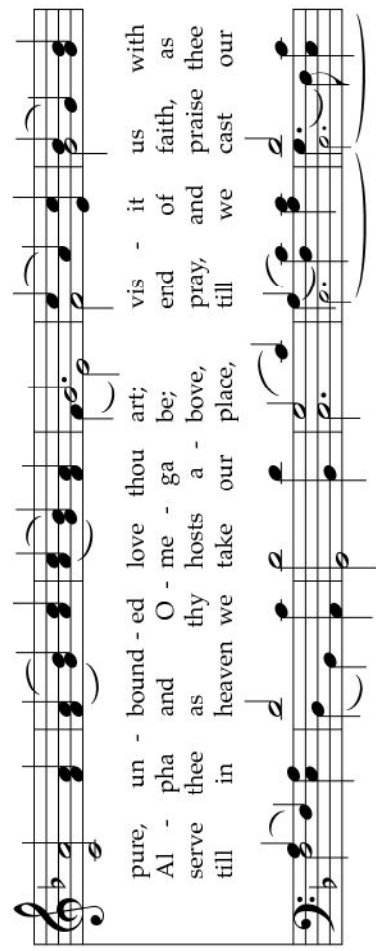
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less




earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



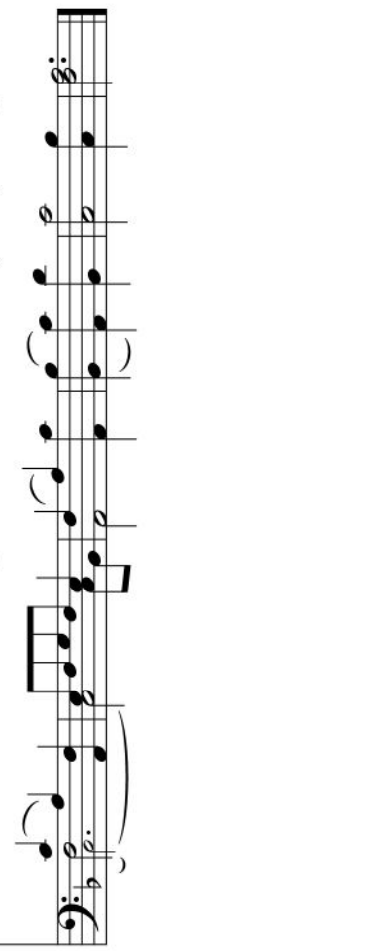
faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.



This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means "delightful") gives us a foretaste of endless song.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.
 MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt.

HYPERDOL
 8.7.8.7.D

Second Reading: Luke 22: 54-62

[Silence]

Prayer of Confession (Psalm 22: 6-11, 14-18)

One: But I am a worm and not human,
scorned by others and despised by the people,

**All: all who see me jeer at me, they toss their heads
and sneer,**

One: 'Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver— let him
rescue the one in whom he delights!'

**All: Yet you drew me out of the womb, you entrusted
me to my mother's breasts; placed on your lap from my
birth, from my mother's womb you have been my God.**

One: Do not stand aside: trouble is near, I have no one to help me!

**All: I am like water draining away, my bones are all
disjointed, my heart is like wax, melting inside me; my
palate is drier than a potsherd and my tongue is stuck
to my jaw.**

One: A pack of dogs surrounds me, a gang of villains closes me in;
they tie me hand and foot and leave me lying in the dust of death.

**All: I can count every one of my bones, and there they
glare at me, gloating; they divide my garments among
them and cast lots for my clothes.**

Assurance of Pardon (from Psalm 22: 19-21)

...Those who seek Yahweh will praise their God. Long life to
their hearts!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Third Reading: Luke 23: 32-34, 29-43

[Silence]

Prayers of the People

L: May the Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Joys and Concerns

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.

[Silence]

Fourth Reading: Luke 23 : 50-56

Fifth Reading: Psalm 22 : 22-26

Sixth Reading: Luke 24 : 1-12

Seventh Reading: Psalm 22 : 27-31

[Silence]

***Hymn:** "Sunset to Sunrise Changes Now" (Pilgrim 165)

Sunset to sunrise changes now,
for God doth make his world anew;
on the Redeemer's thorn-crowned brow
the wonders of that dawn we view.

E'en though the sun withholds its light,
lo! a more heavenly lamp shines here,
and from the cross on Calvary's height
gleams of eternity appear.

Here in o'er-whelming final strife
the Lord of life hath victory,
and sin is slain, and death brings life,
and earth inherits heaven's key.

Reflection: “An Empty Tomb and a Footnote”

Offertory: “Herzliebster Jesu” (Johann Crüger, 1598-1662)

***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:** “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” (Pilgrim 182)

Christ the Lord is risen today, alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply: alleluia!
Lives again the glorious King, alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? alleluia!
Dying once, he all doth save, alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? alleluia!
Love's redeeming work is done, alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, alleluia!
Christ has opened Paradise, alleluia!
Soar we now where Christ has led, alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, alleluia!
Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! alleluia!
Praise to these by both be given, alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now! alleluia!
Hail, the Resurrection thou! Alleluia! Amen.

***Commissioning and Benediction**

Postlude: “Voluntary in C” (J.S. Bach)

All readings this morning are from the Jerusalem Bible



On Easter, our usual post-church coffee hour is replaced by the breakfast many of us enjoyed between services. Coffee hour will resume next week.



Worship Participants:

Leading: Sue Venman and Ray Huessy

Musician: Fred Gray

Deacon: Charlotte Gifford

Trustees: Guy Payne, chair

Ministers to the World: The Congregation



Church and Community Notes

While we are without a pastor, the Deacons will do their best to meet the basic pastoral needs of the congregation. In circumstances that require more than such basic support, they will contact an area pastor to provide it. Please ask one the Deacons for support if you need it: Charlotte Gifford, Karen Blanchard, Sue Venman, Adrienne Major, or Ray Huessy.



Upcoming Events:

Thursday, April 24: Deacons' meeting (7 pm)

Sunday, April 27:

Charlotte Gifford preaching, music by Eric Robinson

Sunday, May 4:

David Mulholland preaching, music by Fred Gray

Sunday, May 11:

Guy Payne preaching, music TBD