

**The Congregational Church  
Of Westminster West  
A United Church of Christ  
May 11, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude            *Sonata in D Minor*            Cimarosa

\*Call to Worship

Leader: From the wondering of our lives, we have come together here.

**People: We bring life with us, to this time and place.**

Leader: We come here, offering your lives before God.

**People: And the presence of God will go with us and remain in us  
in our in our play and work, in our resting and in our service.**

Hymn # 277    *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, holy, holy God the Almighty  
Early in the morning we pray your majesty  
Holy, holy, holy Merciful and mighty  
God in 3 persons blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy Saints adore you truly  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea  
Cherubim and seraphim, bow before you only  
From the beginning, God eternally

Holy, holy, holy Though we know but dimly  
Though the eyes of humankind, your glory may not see  
You alone are holy, you alone are worthy  
Perfect in power in love and purity

Holy, holy, holy God the Almighty  
All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea  
Holy, holy, holy Merciful and mighty  
God in 3 persons blessed Trinity

## Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Oh God, our God, we celebrate the new life which you have given us. We have experienced broken lives made whole, old wounds of alienation healed over, and tired spirits rejuvenated with new vision. Gracious God we are so grateful for the purpose and possibilities you have placed before us. Yet there are times when doubt has overcome hope, cynicism has replaced dedication and the world's values have captured us more than yours. Forgive us those times, we pray. Help us let go of the past, that we might move joyfully into the future that points to your love and justice. Amen.

Silence

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In Christ we are given new life

**People: The old is gone away, the new is before us**

Leader: We are freed to live fully in the present

**People: That's the good news that sets us free to love!**

\*Gloria # 756

## Manna Offering

### Invitation

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"

## 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 by thy name  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this  
day our daily bread, and forgive us the trespasses as we forgive those that  
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 488 Be Still My Soul

Be still my soul for God is on your side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In every change God faithful will remain.  
Be still my soul: your best eternal friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end

Be still my soul for God will undertake  
To guide in future days as in the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be clear at last.  
Be still my soul the waves and winds still know  
How Jesus' power ruled them long ago.

Be still my soul the hour will soon be here;  
When we shall be with God whom we adore,  
With disappointment Gone, no grief nor fear,  
Sorrow replaced with joy forever more.  
Be still my soul when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Scripture: Acts 8: 26-39

Message

Offertory *In the Presence of Jehovah*

Geron and Becky Davis arr. Carol Tornquist

\*Doxology

Praise God for 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 #557 *Pray for the Wilderness*

Pray for the wilderness vanishing fast  
Pray for the rain forest open and vast  
Pray for the waterfalls, pray for the trees  
Pray for the planet brought down by degrees

Learn from the elephant, eagle, and whale,  
Learn from the dragon fly, spider, and snail.  
Learn from the people in the neighboring lands,  
Learn from the children who play in their sands

Work for the justice created things need,  
Work for the health of each plant and its seed  
Work for the creatures abuse has betrayed  
Work for the garden God's wisdom once made

Trust that God's Christ overcame nails and wood  
Trust that earth's people will turn to the good  
Trust that creation forever will grow  
Trust the God's goodness to us overflows

Pray for the atmosphere pray for the sea,  
Learn from the river, the rock and the tree;  
Work till shalom in full harmony rings  
Trust the connections of all living things.

Benediction

Postlude *Happy Our Home When God is There*

John B. Dykes arr. Bryce Inman

- Indicates those who are able shall stand

*Please join us after church for coffee, treats, and friendship*

### **Church and Community Notes**

As we prepare through our search and call process for the start of our time together with the Rev. Kurt Shaffert, 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 touch with him. For all questions of church building use, please contact Tom Griffith.

### **Upcoming Events:**

May 18: Jenny Holan

May 25: Ray Huessy

### **Worship Participants**

Musician: Eric Robinson

Deacon on Duty: Sue Venman

Tech: Charlotte Gifford

Trustees: Guy Payne, Chair

Service Leader: Guy Payne

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

### **Credits**

Call to Worship: Sandra E. Graham

Prayer of Confession: Linda Mines Elliott

Assurance of Pardon: Sandra E. Graham