

**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