

Congregational Church of Westminster West

A United Church of Christ

17th Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 2025



One World / One Communion

(Photo Source: David Mulholland)

Welcome, Announcements, Acknowledgement of Place

Prelude: These Times We're Livin' In

Kate Wolf

* Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us praise the Lord, who made the heavens and the earth, the seas
and all that is in them (based on Psalm 146:6; Neh 9:6).

**Left: We worship God who formed the beasts of the earth and every bird of the air
(based on Genesis 2:19).**

Leader: The cattle on a thousand hills are the Lord's, and every creature of the forest
belongs to God (based on Psalm 50:10–11).

Right: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord (based on Psalm 150:6).

**All: We gather in joy and thanksgiving to honor the Creator of animals, who entrusted
them all to our care.**

*** HYMN 17: To You, O God, All Creatures Sing (Verses 1-3)**

1. To you, O God, all creatures sing, And all creation, everything, Sing your praises, Alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam, Your silver moon with softer gleam, Sing your praises
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
2. Your wind that blows the tempest by, your clouds that sail across the sky, sing your praises, Alleluia!
Your morning rises with a song, and lights of evening sing along, Sing your praises. Alleluia!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
3. Your flowing waters, crystal clear, make melodies for you to hear, Sing your praises, Alleluia!
Your fire, bountiful and bright, Remembering your warmth and light, Sing your praises, Alleluia!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Creator God, we confess that we have not always honored the earth you entrusted to our care. We pollute air and water, waste resources, and turn away from the cries of creation.

People: Forgive us, O God. Restore us to right relationships with all that you have made.

Leader: We confess that we have neglected creatures who share this world with us and use them for our gain, ignore their suffering, and forget that all life reflects your goodness.

People: Forgive us, O Christ. Teach us to see animals great and small as companions in your creation.

Leader: We confess that we have failed one another—wounding our neighbors with indifference, overlooking the poor and the vulnerable, and valuing profit more than people.

People: Forgive us, Holy Spirit. Renew us in compassion and justice.

All: God of mercy, we seek your grace. Heal our hearts, mend your world, and guide us in the way of peace—so that earth, animals, and all people may live together in harmony, singing your praise forever. Amen. (Inspired by Gen 1:26–31; Psalm 24:1; Rom 8:19–23)

Assurance of Pardon: NCH #839

One fact remains that does not change: God has loved you, loves you now, and will love you always. This is the good news that brings us new life. **AMEN.**

***Gloria No. 756 (As a round: unison, once; in parts, twice)**

Gloria, gloria in excelsis deo

Gloria, gloria alleluia, alleluia!

Prayers of the People

L: May the Lord be with you.

P: And also, with you.

L: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Music: *All God's Critters*

Our Wonderful, Faithful Choir!

Scripture Lesson: John 6:51

51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

Message: *What We Can Learn from a Chicken and a Pig about Communion....*

Hymn 138: *Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good

French Medieval Carol

1. Jesus, our brother, strong and good, was humbly born in a stable rude,
 And the friendly beasts around him stood; Jesus, our brother, strong and good.
2. "I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown, "I carried your mother up hill and down,
 I carried your mother to Bethlehem town; I" said the donkey, shaggy and brown.
3. "I," said the cow, all white and red, "I gave you my manger for you bed,
 I gave my hay to pillow your head; I," said the cow, all white and red.
4. "I," said the sheep with curly horn, "I gave you my wool for a blanket warm,
 You wore my coat on Christmas morn; I," said the sheep with curly horn.
5. "I," said the dove, from rafters high, "I cooed you to sleep so you should not cry,
 We cooed you to sleep, my love and I; I," said the dove, from the rafters high.
6. Thus, all the beasts, by some good spell, in a stable dark were glad to tell,
 Of the gifts they gave Emmanuel, the gifts they gave Emmanuel."

Offering of our Tithes and Pledges

Offertory: *Anglican Chant Settings*

Roechel / Turle

***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**

Celebration of Holy Communion

We celebrate an open table. When the moment to receive communion comes, all are welcome to come forward and share in the meal. If you are unable to walk forward but would like to participate, it will be brought to you. If you prefer not to receive communion, you are welcome to remain seated in quiet meditation.

Communion Interlude: *Song 4*

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

***Hymn 31: All Things Bright and Beautiful (v.1,2,4)**

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]

1 Each little flow'r that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings. [Refrain]

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one. [Refrain]

***Commissioning and Benediction**

Postlude: Side By Side

Harry M. Woods (1927)

*Indicates that all who are able shall stand

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, Adrienne Major, Ray Huessy, 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.

Worship Participants:

Service Leader: David Mulholland
Musician: Fred Gray
Deacons: Karen Blanchard
Technician: Charlotte Gifford
Trustees: Guy Payne, chair
Ministers to the World: The Congregation

Upcoming Worship Leaders:

Oct 12: Ray Huessy
Oct 19: Rev. Shawn Bracebridge, from
Dummerston Center
Oct 26: Breakfast Church, with Sue
Venman