

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTMINSTER WEST  
MARCH 15, 2026  
WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE



*Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her,  
all you who love her. (Isaiah 66:10)*

**MID-  
LENT  
SUNDAY**

# **Welcome, Announcements, Acknowledgement of Place**

## **Prelude:**

### **\* Call to Worship**

**Psalm 145: 10-13 NIV**

**ALL:** All your works praise you, Lord;  
your faithful people extol you.

**RIGHT:** They tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your might,

**LEFT:** So that all people may know of your mighty acts  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**ONE:** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures through all generations.

**ALL:** The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises  
and faithful in all he does.

**\*Hymn 1: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

Smith 1867

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
    In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, Ancient of Days,  
    Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
    Not wanting, nor wasting, but ruling in might;  
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,  
    Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. Your life is life giving—to both great and small;  
    In all life you're living, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,  
    Then wither and perish—but naught dims your powers.
4. So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,  
    Your angels adore you, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we now render as your angels do;  
    In awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

**Prayer of Confession Hymn# 836 (adapted) (Seated, Unison)**

**God of love and justice, we long for peace within and peace without. We long for harmony in our families, for serenity in the midst of struggle, and for commitment to each other's growth. We long for the day when our homes will be a dwelling place for your love and our communities free to welcome all. Yet, we confess that in this world and times we are often anxious; together, we do not trust each other, and we harbor violence. We are not willing to take the risks and make the hard choices that love requires. Look upon us with kindness and grace. Rule in our homes and in all the world; show us how to walk in your path, through the mercy of our Savior. Make us instruments of your Peace. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon (Unison) from Lamentations 3:21-23**

Psalm 8 reminds us, "When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place— what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor." Many astronauts who have seen earth from afar

report our collective small size and fragility in a vast universe. Thanks be to a God that big and careful to value small, living things like me, you, and all of us. 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.

### **Joys and Concerns / Silence / Pastoral Prayer**

### **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.**

**Scripture Lesson: John 18: 28-40**

**NIV**

## **Jesus Before Pilate**

<sup>28</sup> Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup> So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

<sup>30</sup> “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”

<sup>31</sup> Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. <sup>32</sup> This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>33</sup> Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

<sup>34</sup> “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

<sup>35</sup> “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

<sup>37</sup> “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

<sup>38</sup> “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. <sup>39</sup> But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”

<sup>40</sup> They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

**\* Hymn 40. You Are The Way**

Doane, 1824

1. You are the way; through you alone can we the true God find;  
In you, O Christ, is now revealed God’s heart and will and mind.
2. You are the Truth; your word alone true wisdom can impart;  
You only can inform the mind and purify the heart.
3. You are the life; grant us that way to know,  
And God will ne’er forsake the one who trusts, O Christ, in you.
4. You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,  
That truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.

**Message:**     *Living Receipts*

**Offering of our Tithes and Pledges**

**Offertory:**

**\*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 331: Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life** Herbert, 1633

1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

    Such a way as gives us breath;

Such a truth as ends all strife;

    Such a life as conquers death.

2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength;

Such a light as shows a feast;

Such a feast as mends in length;

Such a strength as makes a guest.

3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart;

Such a joy as none can move;

Such a love as none can part;

Such a heart as joys in love.

### **\*Commissioning and Benediction**

#### **Postlude:**

**\*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. Deacons (Karen Blanchard, Charlotte Gifford, Adrienne Major, Ray Huessey, 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: Eric Robinson

Deacons: Lee Crocker

Technician: Karen Blanchard

Trustees: Guy Payne, chair

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

### **Upcoming Worship**

#### **Leaders:**

Mar 22, Karen Blanchard

Mar 29, Gabriela De Golia

April 2, David Mulholland