

**Congregational Church
of Westminster West
A United Church of Christ**

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: Last Night I had the Strangest Dream, Ed
McCurdy

*Call to Worship

One: O God of the morning and the evening hours

All: Let your Spirit come on us here gathered

One: This is the place where we call on you in faith

All: Joining heart and voice in giving thanks, and
praise to your name. Amen ✧

*Hymn: 589 Let There Be Light O God of Hosts

Prayer of Confession (*unison / seated*)

All: Almighty and everlasting God, always more
ready to hear

than we are to pray, always willing to ask for more
than we either deserve or need, pour upon us the
abundance of your mercy; forgiving those things of

which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we may not be worthy to ask. Help us to live our lives differently. Amen

Words of Assurance

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

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

*Gloria No. 756 *(see inside back of hymnal)*

Manna Offering for Our Place *(see back of bulletin)*

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 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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Lesson : John 19 :1-16a ; Psalm ; 146 (Nan Merrill)

Sermon: From Darkness to Light

*Hymn 575: O For a World

Offertory: Let us present with joy our offerings of commitment and support for the work of this Church.

Music: Prayer-Beethoven

*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 377: Forward Through the Ages

*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude: Dancing in Front of the Guns – Libby Roderick



**indicates all who are able shall stand*

Please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments downstairs following the worship service.



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, Ray Hussey, 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 contact a deacon directly. In case of a 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.

Worship Participants:

Musician: Eric Robinson

Deacon: Charlotte Gifford, chair

Trustees: Guy Payne, chair

Service Leader: Karen J.S Blanchard

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

The Manna Offering

Invitation to Offering

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"
(Bring your offering for Our Place forward during the singing of the hymn, put it in the basket, and return to your seat.)

Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts

589

William M. Vories, 1908; alt.

1. Let there be light, O God of hosts!
Let there be wis-dom on the earth!
Let broad hu-man-i-ty have birth!
Let there be deeds, in-stead of boasts!

2. With-in our pas-sioned hearts in-still
the calm that ends all strain and strife;
Make us your min-is-ters of life;
purge us from lusts that curse and kill!

3. Give us the peace of sens-es clear
to know our neigh-bors' good our own;
To hope and suf-fer not a-lone,
bond-ed in love that con-quers fear!

4. Let woe and waste of war-fare cease,
that use-ful la-bor yet may build
Its homes with love and laugh-ter filled!
God, give your way-ward chil-dren peace!

O for a World

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

1. O for a world where ev-ery-one re-spects each oth-er's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with jus-tice and with praise.
2. O for a world where goods are shared and mis-er-y re-lieved,
Where truth is spo-ken, chil-dren spared, e-qual-i-ty a-chieved.
3. We wel-come one world fam-i-ly and strug-gle with each choice
That o-pens us to u-ni-ty and gives our vi-sion voice.
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool-ish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: out-casts be-long, who per-ish-es will rise.
5. O for a world pre-par-ing for God's glo-rious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12

Forward through the Ages

377

Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908; alt.

1. For-ward through the a-ges, in un-bro-ken line,
move the faith-ful spir-its at the call di-vine;
Gifts in dif-fering mea-sure, hearts of one ac-cord,
man-i-fold in ser-vice, one the sure re-ward.
For-ward through the a-ges, in un-bro-ken line,
Move the faith-ful spir-its at the call di-vine.

2. Wide grows God's do-min-ion, reign of love and peace;
for it we must la-bor, till all striv-ings cease.
Proph-ets have pro-claimed it, teach-ers tes-ti-fied,
po-ets sung its glo-ry, mar-tyrs for it died.
For-ward through the a-ges, in un-bro-ken line,
Move the faith-ful spir-its at the call di-vine.

3. Not a-lone we con-quer, not a-lone we fall;
in each loss or tri-umph, lose or tri-umph all.
Bound by God's far pur-pose in one liv-ing whole,
move we on to-geth-er to the shin-ing goal.
For-ward through the a-ges, in un-bro-ken line,
Move the faith-ful spir-its at the call di-vine.

Heb. 11; 1 Cor. 12