

Congregational Church of Westminster West
Sunday, April 19, 2026, Third Sunday of Easter

Prelude:

J.S. Bach, *Prelude in E minor* (BWV 555)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Psalm 30, a Psalm of David):

One: I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

All: O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the pit.

One: Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

All: For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

One: As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." By your favor, O Lord, you had

established me as a strong mountain.

All: You hid your face; I was dismayed. To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication: “What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit?”

One: Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

All: Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!

One: You have turned my mourning into dancing.

All: You have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

*** Hymn: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and

love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render, O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden, we know that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed—by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may live to show forth your glory and your love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*** Gloria 756**

(sung once in unison twice as a round)

Prayers of the People:

One: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

Joys and Concerns

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father, 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. Let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

2 Kings 6: 8-23; 2 Corinthians 12: 1-10;
Acts 7: 54-60, 9: 1-19a, [19a-28]

Hymn: "We Walk by Faith"

We walk by faith, and not by sight; no gracious words we hear from Him who spoke as none ne'er spoke, but we believe him near.

We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where He trod; but in His promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound, to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found.

That when our lives of faith are done, in realms of clearer light, we may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

Sermon: “Blind in the Light”

Offertory:

J.S. Bach, *Toccatà in e minor* (BWV 914)

* **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:** “Lord of Star and Manger”

Lord of star and manger, Lord of cross and grave,
Love who comes and calls us to repent and save not
just souls we love but all the souls we hate – open
up our hearts of stone, make our hearts your gate.

To ask change of others, we must first be changed,
giving first what we demand of those long
estranged, judging not, lest we be judged, as was

meant to be – ears and eyes unstopped, so we hear and see.

To pray for forgiveness, we must first forgive, learn to love those we despise, learn to love and live, learn to seek tomorrow, leave each day that dies, learn to live in dying, dying hope to rise.

Lord of Mark and Matthew, Luke and John, and Paul, born anew in every day and every soul! Come, O Love, and scourge us, strike us deaf and dumb, Blind us now so we see in the light to come.

*** Benediction**

Postlude: “Faraway Skies” (Dean Johnson)

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

In this time without a settled pastor, the Deacons are supporting the basic pastoral needs of the congregation. In circumstances that are more of an emergency, they will reach out to the pastor of the Dummerston church to

provide further support. Please ask a Deacon for support if you need it: Adrienne Major, Charlotte Gifford, Karen Blanchard, Lee Crocker, Ray Huessy, or Sue Venman-Payne.

Worship Participants:

Musician: Fred Gray

Preaching: Ray Huessy

Deacon: Karen Blanchard

Deacon/Tech: Lee Crocker

Ministers to the World: the Congregation

Sunday, April 26:

Breakfast Church, with Sue Venman

Sunday, May 3:

Lise Sparrow-Pepin, preaching

Eric Robinson, musician