

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

May 10, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Easter

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Melody in F*

A. Rubenstein, arr. Leon Keach

***Call to Worship (responsive)**

R: Love is my light and my salvation,
whom shall I fear?

L: Love is the strength of my life,
of whom shall I be afraid?

R: When fears assail me,
rising up to accuse me,

L: Each one in turn shall be seen
in Love's light.

R: Though a multitude of demons rise up within me,
my heart shall not fear.

L: One thing have I asked of Love,
That I shall ever seek:

R: That I might dwell in the Heart of Love
all the days of my life,

L: To behold the Beauty of my Beloved,
And to know Love's plan.

(Ps 27:1-4, from Nan Merrill's *Psalms for Praying*)

***Hymn #294:** *There's a Spirit in the Air*

There's a spirit air,
telling Christians everywhere:
“Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.”

Lose your shyness, find your tongue;
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today.

When believers break the bread,
when a hungry child is fed:
Praise the love that Christ revealed,
Living, working in our world.

Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today.

When a stranger's not alone,
when the homeless find a home:
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.

May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today.

There's a spirit in the air,
calling people everywhere:
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.

Prayer of Confession (seated / unison)

One: Holy God, Maker of all,

All: Have mercy on us.

One: Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor,

All: Have mercy on us.

One: Holy Spirit, Breath of life,

All: Have mercy on us.

One Let us in silence confess our faults and admit
our frailty.

... silence ...

One: Before God, and with the people of God, I
confess to my brokenness: to the ways I wound my
life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

**All: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

One: Amen.

**All: Before God, with the people of God, we
confess to our brokenness: to the ways we
wound our lives, the lives of others, and the
life of the world.**

One: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the
Spirit enable you to grow in love.

All: Amen.

Words of Assurance

***Gloria #756**

Manna Offering for Our Place (see insert)

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"

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 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.

Scripture:

Philippians 1:1-18a

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the overseers and helpers:

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my

heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually resulted in the progress of the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ, and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.

Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry but others from goodwill. These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true, and in that I rejoice.

1 John 4:16b-19

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as God is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because God first loved us.

Hymn #531: *God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

God, speak to me that I may speak
In living echoes of your tone;
As you have sought, so let me seek
Your erring children lost and alone.

O lead me, God, that I may lead
Some wanderers along life's way;
O feed me so that I may feed
Your hungry ones without delay.

O Fill me with your fullness, God,
Your overflowing love to know;
In glowing word and kindling thought,
Your love to tell, your praise to show.

O use me, God, use even me,
Just as you will, and when, and where,
Until your blessed face I see,
Your rest, your joy, your glory share.

Message

Offertory: *Sweet Hour of Prayer*
William B. Bradbury, arr. Gail Smith

*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 (see below):** *O Love that Casts out Fear*

O love that casts out fear,
O love that casts out sin,
Tarry no more without,
But come and dwell within.

True sunlight of the soul,
Surround us as we go;
So shall our way be safe,
Our feet no straying know.

Great love of God, come in!
Well-spring of heavenly peace;
Thou living water, come!
Spring up and never cease.

Love of the living God,
Of Father and of Son;
Love of the Holy Ghost,
Fill thou each needy one.

O love that casts out fear

Henry Smart, 1881

Moseley
66.66

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody in the treble clef begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand and chords in the right hand. A fermata is placed over the final note of the first measure in both staves. A finger number '5' is written above the final note of the treble staff.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It features two staves, treble and bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody in the treble clef continues with quarter notes D5, E5, and F#5. The bass clef accompaniment maintains the eighth-note pattern in the left hand and chords in the right hand. A fermata is placed over the final note of the first measure in both staves. The system concludes with a double bar line.

*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude: *Count Your Blessings*

Edwin O. Excel, arr. Richard Kingsmore



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, Lee Crocker, 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: Charlotte Gifford

Musician: Eric Robinson

Deacon: Karen Blanchard

Tech: Lee Crocker

Trustees: Guy Payne, chair

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

