

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF
WESTMINSTER WEST, UCC

June 14, 2026

3rd after Pentecost in Ordinary Time

Welcome and Announcements

Time of Gathering

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us worship the One who calls us.

**People: Here we are,
ready or not,
called by the One
who lived and died
and rose to live again among us.**

Leader: Here we are,
ready or not,
bringing our everyday selves
to praise and to pray,
to know the Holy One
in the midst of our lives.

All: Let us worship the One who calls us.*

Opening Hymn: #12 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

**I sing the mighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.**

**I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of our God
that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word,
and then pronounced them good.**

**Oh, how your wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye:
If I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky!**

**On earth there's not a plant or flower
but makes your glory known.
The clouds arise and spread their showers**

by order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you
and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather, you,
O God, are present there.

Time of Confession and Prophetic Action

Prayer of Confession:

Incarnate God

For the times we've hurt you

Forgive us

For the times we've hurt others

Forgive us

For the times we've hurt ourselves

Forgive us

For we are made in your image

and it is very good.**

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria #756 (Sung in a round)

Manna 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 from Isaiah 58: 1-2 (unison):

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"*

Time of Prayer

L: May Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer:

Our [Father/Mother/Creator] who art in Heaven,
hallowed by 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 forever and ever. Amen.

Time of Reflection

Genesis 18: 16-32

Hymn: #582 *O God of Earth and Altar*

O god of earth and altar, bow down and hear our cry;
Our earthly rulers falter, our people drift and die;
The walls of gold entomb us,
the swords of scorn divide;
Take not your thunder from us,
but take away our pride.

From all that terror teaches, from lies of pen and voice,
From all the easy speeches that make our hearts rejoice,
From value's profanation, from honor sacrificed,
From sleep and from damnation, deliver us, O Christ!

Awaken us to action and forge us into one,
defying sect and faction; O God, your will be done!
Oppressive systems snare us; our apathies increase.
Great God, in mercy spare us for justice and for peace!

Sermon: Arguing with God: Ethical Entanglements

Time of Offering

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.

Dedication

Time of Commissioning

Closing Hymn: #538 *Standing on the Future's Threshold*

Standing at the future's threshold,

grateful for God's guiding hand,

Asking no protected stronghold,

called to be a pilgrim band,

Seeking ever for new vision of the gospel for our day,

We move forward in God's mission
with our faith to show the way.

Midst the teeming cities' millions,
witness to God's boundless love,
Reaching for each system's lost ones
seeking justice with each move
Grant us courage, strength, and patience
to contend with vicious power,
Lead us forward in the faith that
gives us hope in testing's hour.

Open-hearted in exchanges
with the faithful not our own,
Trusting God's way with these strangers
not to leave the truth unknown,
Joining them I shared endeavor
where we have Christ's clear command,
We have faith that calls us ever
toward this good earth's promised land.

Building justice as the bulwark

of the peace that God would give,
Making sacrifice the hallmark
of the life we're called to live:
Grant us, God, to bear our witness
to this peace in Christ and move
Forward with our faith's own access
to the life of hope and love.

Jesus Christ, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
We would ask no special favor,
with the lowliest seek our place,
Know the inasmuch of serving,
have your cross as our command:
Lead us in this faith unswerving
forward as your pilgrim band.

Benediction and Commissioning
Postlude



Notes:

*Call to worship is from the Seekers' Church. I found it on the re: Worship blog of liturgies.

**The Confession is from Clare McBeath and Tim Presswood's *Dancing Scarecrow* website.



As we seek a settled pastor through our search and call process, we will not be able to offer office hours as usual. The Deacons, Karen Blanchard, Lee Crocker, Charlotte Gifford (chair), Ray Huessey, Adrienne Major and Sue Venman are available to support the congregation. In case of pastoral emergency, a deacon will call on the Rev. Shawn Bracebridge (pastor of the Dummerston UCC) for his direct assistance with those in such need. For all questions of church building use, please contact Tom Griffith.



Upcoming Services:

June 21: Ray Huessey, lay leader

June 28: Windham Union joint service in West Brattleboro

July 5: Feast of Holy Communion; Reverend Janet Langdon, celebrant



Worship Participants:

Service Leader: Adrienne Major

Musician: Seth Phoenix

Deacon: Sue Venman

Technician: Charlotte Gifford

Chair of Trustees: Guy Payne

Ministers to the World: All of us