



**congregational church of westminster
west (ucc)**

sunday, JULY 19, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier* (J.S. Bach, BWV 731)

Call to Worship (Psalm 31, a Psalm of David: 1-8):

One: In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

All: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me.

One: Take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

All: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

One: You hate those who pay regard to worthless idols, but I trust in the LORD.

All: I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction; you have taken notice of my adversities and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy; you have set my feet in a broad place.

Hymn:

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (PH #20)

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory.

What God's almighty power hath made, his gracious mercy keepeth; by morning glow or evening shade, his watchful eye ne'er sleepeth. Within the kingdom of his might, lo! All is just and all is right: to God all praise and glory.

Then all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises, that men may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in

the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part: to God all praise and glory.

O ye who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory; let all who own his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story! Cast each false idol from its throne, the Lord is God, and he alone: to God all praise and glory.

Call to Confession

(Psalm 31, a Psalm of David: 9-12, 15-17)

All: Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. For my life is spent with sorrow and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love. Do not let me be put to shame, O LORD, for I call on you.

Assurance of Pardon (Psalm 31, a Psalm of David: 19-24)

All: O how abundant is your goodness that you have laid up for those who fear you and accomplished for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of everyone! In the shelter of your presence you hide them from human plots; you hold them safe under your shelter from contentious tongues.

Blessed be the LORD, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was beset as a city under siege. I had said in my alarm, “I am driven far from your sight.” But you heard my supplications when I cried out to you for help.

Love the LORD, all you his saints. The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts haughtily. Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

Gloria

(NCH#756, once in unison, then twice as a round)

Prayers of the People:

One: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

. . . This we pray in the name of your son Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying:

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 Readings:

Philippians 2: 5-11; Mark 14: 32-42

Hymn: *Sunset to Sunrise Changes Now* (PH# 165)

Sunset to sunrise changes now, for God doth make his world anew;
on the Redeemer's thorn-crowned brow the wonders of that dawn
we view.

E'en though the sun withholds its light, lo! a more heavenly lamp shines here, and from the cross on Calvary's height gleams of eternity appear.

Here in o'er-whelming final strife the Lord of life hath victory, and sin is slain, and death brings life, and earth inherits heaven's key.

One: May the words of my mouth . . .

All: . . . and the meditations of our hearts prove acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our Redeemer.

Sermon: "Suffering and Suffering Out of Season"

Offertory: *Auf meinen lieben Gott*
(Dietrich Buxtehude, BuxWV 179)

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.

Dedicatory Prayer

Hymn:

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (PH #223)

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

Glory to God, and praise, and love, be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

Benediction

Postlude:

Marcia religiosa (Luigi Bottazzo, 1845-1924)



Please join us downstairs in the community hall
for refreshments after the service.



Musician today: Fred Gray; preacher today: Ray Huessy;
Deacons: Karen Blanchard and Charlotte Gifford; Trustees:
Guy Payne, chair; Ministers to the World: the Congregation



On Sunday July 26, we begin our series of alternative services with a reading and singing of Psalms led by Charlotte Gifford; Sunday, August 2 is a communion service with a “reader’s theater” led by Lise Sparrow; Eric Robinson will provide music for both. Sunday, August 9th will be a prayer walk led by Karen Blanchard, and Sunday, August 16th will be Bible study led by Ray Huessy. Most of the “alternative services” will not be streamed.



As we seek a settled pastor, we are not offering office hours as usual, but the deacons (Karen Blanchard, Lee Crocker, Charlotte Gifford, Adrienne Major, Ray Huessy, and Sue Venman) are available to offer support. You can leave a message on the church answering machine (802-387-1175) or contact a deacon directly. In case of a pastoral emergency, one of the deacons will call on the Rev. Shawn Bracebridge (of the Dummerston UCC church) and put him in touch with you.

For all questions relating to use of the church spaces, contact Tom Griffith at tomgriffith1051@gmail.com.