



Westwood is a  
Reconciling in Christ  
(RIC) church.

# Welcome to Rally Sunday Worship at Westwood

September 8, 2024 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Westwood is an open, affirming, and inclusive church, welcoming all who seek God.*

**GATHERING MUSIC** “Alive Again” Matt Maher

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MOMENT FOR QUIET PREPARATION**

(Congregation)

**We bear the image of God  
We carry the message of peace.**

*(Pause for a deep inhale and exhale)*

**I bear the image of God  
I carry the message of peace.**

*(Silence for reflection)*

**↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
In whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

*(Silence for reflection)*

God of covenant promises, come to the help of your people, turning us from our guilt and shame to join your culture of grace. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are broken and flawed people.**

**We are infected by sin and act in ways that fail to reflect your goodness in this world.**

**We are paralyzed by fears of not being good enough and our insecurities keep us from being faithful to your call.**

**Have mercy on us. Forgive us. Lead us, guide us, and grant us courage to live boldly as your hands and feet in the world. Amen.**

Friends, hear this good news. God, who is rich in mercy, chose us, loves us, and appointed us to go and bear fruit. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

**↑ HYMN**

“God is Here!” ELW 526 ABBOT'S LEIGH

**↑ GREETING**

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**↑ KYRIE**, ELW 157

**↑ CANTICLE OF PRAISE** “I Will Bless the Lord” by Joe Pace

**↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Loving God, **you have claimed us as your own and drawn us into your culture of grace. By your Spirit may we accept your call to lead and live our lives with humble courage, truthful curiosity, and unconditional love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**ACCLAMATION** "Jesus Loves the Little Children" *(Children invited forward)*

**Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.**

**Every child in every land comes from the Creator's hand.**

**Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

**BLESSING OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND FAMILIES**

**ANTHEM** "With a Voice of Singing" Martin Shaw *(Children return to their families)*

**GOSPEL LESSON** John 15:12-17

**SERMON** Pastor Jason

**MOMENT FOR QUIET REFLECTION**

*What have you heard about love and what leadership in a culture of grace looks like?*

**HYMN** "Lead Me, Guide Me" ELW 768

*(Refrain only)*

**↑ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**↑ SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** *(Children return to worship)*

**OFFERING**

"He Never Failed Me Yet " Robert Ray

**↑ OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Merciful God, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**↑ LORD'S PRAYER**

**↑ BENEDICTION**

**↑ SENDING SONG**

"Make a Difference" Rachel Kurtz

**↑ PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE**

O God, **you have called your servant *(say your name)* to ventures of which I cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give me faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where I go, but only that your hand is leading me and your love supporting me, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**↑ DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love all and live in God's culture of grace. **Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE** "Toccata Brevis" Daniel E. Gawthrop