



Westwood is a
Reconciling in Christ
(RIC) church.

LEADERSHIP IN A CULTURE OF GRACE



Welcome to 9a Sunday Worship at Westwood

November 24, 2024 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE "Interlude" Percy E. Fletcher

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR QUIET PREPARATION (*Pause for a deep inhale and exhale*)

↑ OPENING LITANY

In the waters of baptism, we are claimed and called to be God's hands and feet in the world.

This Matters!

This includes our callings in both our individual lives to seek the thriving of our neighbors and our congregation's call to engage our community in ways that affect the well-being of all.

This Matters!

God has given each us exactly what we need to be leaders in a culture of grace.

My leadership matters!

God has given us extraordinary gifts as a congregation: time, talent, financial resources, and faithful imagination.

Our generosity matters!

Together, we prayerfully imagine how we are called to participate in what God is doing in the world.

Together, we commit to the thriving of Westwood's vision.

↑ **HYMN** "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" ELW 873 MARION
Stanzas 1 & 2: All | Stanza 3: Choir | Stanza 6: All

↑ CONFESSON 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.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.**

↑ 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, S138

↑ CANTICLE OF PRAISE, S139

↑ PRAYER OF THE SEASON

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 leadership in the ways we steward our time, talents, and gifts through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

BAPTISM

Cameron Howard Cooper, child of Ryan and Sara Cooper (Engler)

ACCLAMATION "Jesus Loves Me!" ELW 595 (Stanza 1) *(Children invited forward)*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ACCLAMATION "Jesus Loves Me!" *(Children depart for The Message)*

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 8:27-37

SERMON Pastor Sarah

MOMENT FOR QUIET REFLECTION

What have you heard about generosity and leadership in a culture of grace?

ANTHEM "Now Thank We All Our God" from Cantata 79 J.S. Bach

↑ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" (Stanza 2) ELW 836 HYMN TO JOY

↑ 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 HYMN "All Creatures, Worship God Most High" ELW 835 LASST UNS ERFREUEN

↑ PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

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

↑ DISMISSAL Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE "Festival Toccata" Percy E. Fletcher