



## Welcome to Worship at Westwood

December 29, 2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

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

### Welcome to worship!

Join us as we follow Jesus into our world in this year ahead!

Westwood is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) church

Sunday Worship in-person or livestreamed at 9:00 & 11:00 AM.

All this can be found at [www.westwood.church](http://www.westwood.church)

### GATHERING MUSIC

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### ↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the Word made flesh,  
our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,  
let us confess our sin. *(Silence for reflection)*

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace**

**and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

##### ↑ OPENING HYMN

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" ELW 282 CAROL (Stanzas 1, 2, and 4)

##### ↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, **as we look to this new year ahead, open our hearts to the good news and also the challenges that you lay before us in your Word. Give us strength to think and act according to your good will, that we may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

##### ACCLAMATION

"Away in a Manger" ELW 277 CRADLE SONG (Stanza 3)

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Colossians 3:12-17

**GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 2:25-38

**SERMON** Pastor Jason Van Hunnik

**SONG OF THE DAY**

"Canticle of the Turning" ELW 723 STAR OF COUNTY DOWN  
Stanzas 1, 2, 4

**↑ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

**↑ SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**OFFERING**

"Still, Still, Still" Austrian Carol, setting by Jon Schmidt

**↑ 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**

"Angels We Have Heard On High" ELW 289 GLORIA

**↑ 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**

Christ the Savior is born. Go in peace. Proclaim this Good News!  
**Thanks be to God!**