



Westwood is a
Reconciling in Christ
(RIC) church.

LEADERSHIP IN A CULTURE OF GRACE



Welcome to 9a Sunday Worship at Westwood

January 26, 2025 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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

PRELUDE “Prelude on Repton” Charles Callahan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR QUIET PREPARATION

(Leader)

God has swept us up into God's story and called us for the sake of the world. But, in this wounded and fractured world we sometimes forget we are lavishly loved and uniquely made in God's image. We remind ourselves with our breath:

(Pause for a deep inhale and exhale)

(Congregation)

I bear the image of God

I am in need of a culture of grace.

(Pause for a deep inhale and exhale)

We bear the image of God

We gather in a culture of grace.

(Pause for a deep inhale and exhale)

↑ 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.**

In the light of Christ, we see the darkness of our world and of our hearts.
Trusting in God's saving love, let us confess our sin. *(Silence for reflection)*

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have been led astray by the idols of world.

We have depended on our possessions and not placed our trust in your grace.

**We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer
and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth's resources.**

We have sought security in the might of the sword rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us. Forgive us, we pray.

Lead us to true repentance and grant us courage to serve you faithfully with our time, talents, and possessions.

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

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Be at peace to love the Lord and serve the world. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” ELW 533 UNSER HERRSCHER (Stanzas 1, 3, 4)

↑ 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.**

↑ EPIPHANY KYRIE

↑ CANTICLE OF PRAISE "Glory to God" S148

↑ PRAYER OF THE SEASON

Holy 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 seek the thriving of our neighbors and lead our lives with humble courage, truthful curiosity, unconditional love, and faithful generosity through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

ACCLAMATION "This Little Light of Mine" Traditional, Negro Spiritual

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "This Little Light of Mine" (*children leave worship for The Message*)

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON II Corinthians 8:1-15

INTERVIEW SERMON Pastor Jason with Kelsey and Chris Vatsaas

HYMN "How Clear is Our Vocation Lord" ELW 580 REPTON

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

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

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

OFFERING "Amazing Grace" setting by Mark Hayes

↑ OFFERTORY "Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines" Paul D. Vasile

Glory to God whose goodness shines on me;

and to the Son whose grace has pardoned me;

and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

↑ 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 "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve" ELW 551 CHESTERFIELD (Stanzas 1, 3, 4)

↑ 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. Let your light shine. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE "Sinfonia" George Frederic Handel