NOVEMBER 15, 2026 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# WORSHIP AT WESTFIELD

**SERVICE OF WORD & TABLE**

GATHER

THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERS US IN UNITY
ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK,
THE DAY OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION.

*PLEASE RISE
IN BODY OR SPIRIT

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please take a moment to complete the care pad in your pew.**

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.
**Thanks be to God.**

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The day of the Lord is at hand;
be silent before our God.
**God brings judgment against oppressors;**
**against all who misuse earth's resources.**
The Great day of God is near;
it brings distress to those alienated from God.
**God breaks the weapons of war, and strips away**
**the advantages of the comfortable.**
**God has not destined us for wrath, but for salvation**
**through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
We gather in faith and hope and love, to
encourage one another and build new life.

## INVOCATION

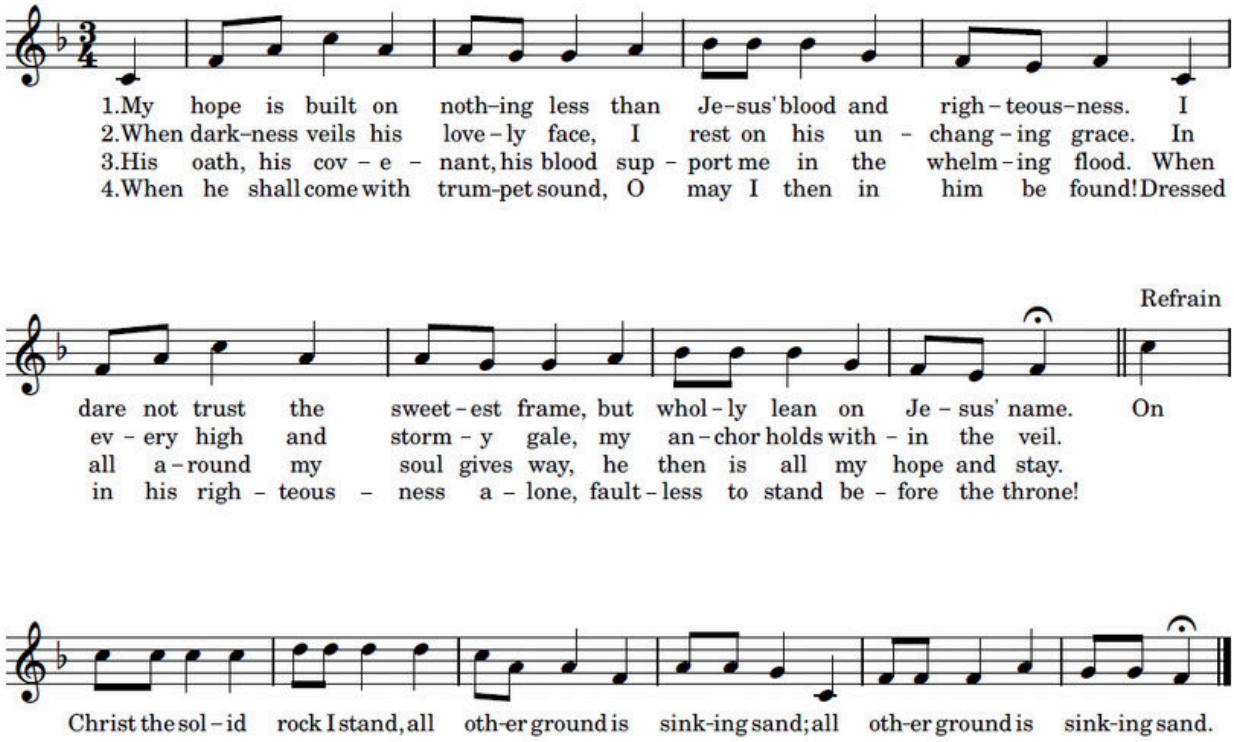
The God who loves us calls us to account. We whose senses are dulled in so many ways have failed to see God in action in our own history. We have placed our trust in silver and gold rather than in God's saving activity. While there is yet some life within us, let us turn away from what has been, to embrace God's exciting new possibilities. We pray this in Jesus' name saying,
**Amen.**

# GATHER

THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERS US IN UNITY
ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK,
THE DAY OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION.

*PLEASE RISE
IN BODY OR SPIRIT

## *OPENING HYMN
## My Hope Is Built




## *CALL TO CONFESSION

God created us for goodness, and we make foolish choices. God, who walked this earth, knows our temptations. God, whose hope is for wholeness, waits to forgive us. Let us come to our God, as we confess our lives together.

## *ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

In every time, in every place, in every life, God shows compassion and mercy. Thus, we know God has heard our prayers and has filled us with grace and hope.
In this time, in this place, in our lives, our grace and hope are sustained by this abiding love.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven..
So receive this grace:

**We are known.**
**We are called.**
**We are accompanied.**
**We are loved.**
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

# GATHER

THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERS US IN UNITY
ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK,
THE DAY OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION.
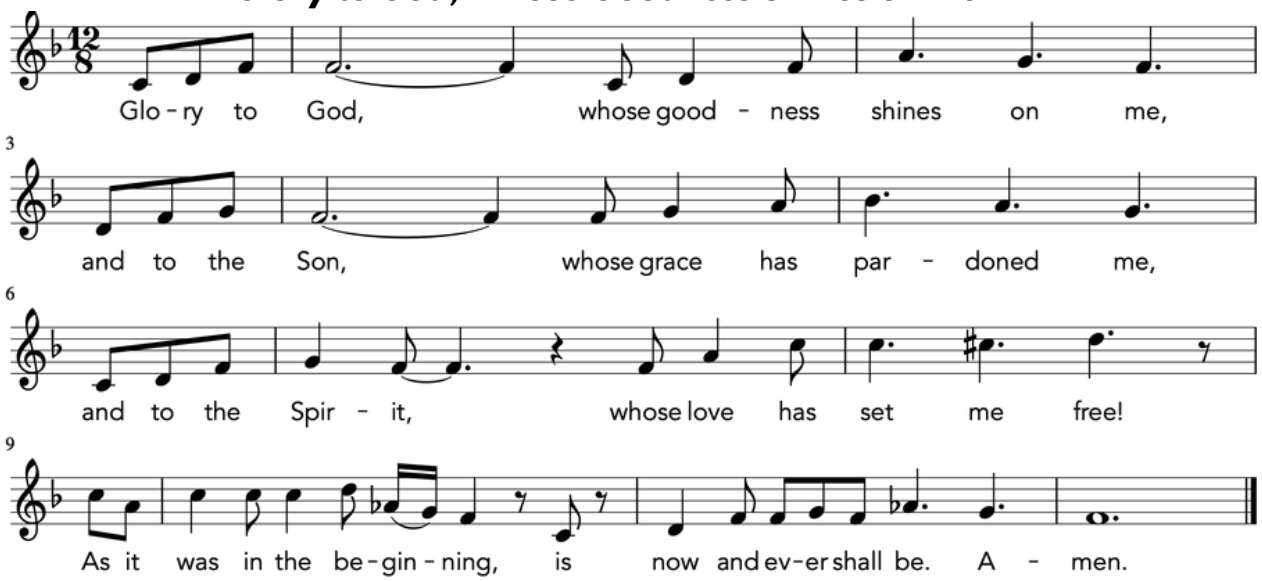
*PLEASE RISE
IN BODY OR SPIRIT

## *PRAYER OF CONFESSION
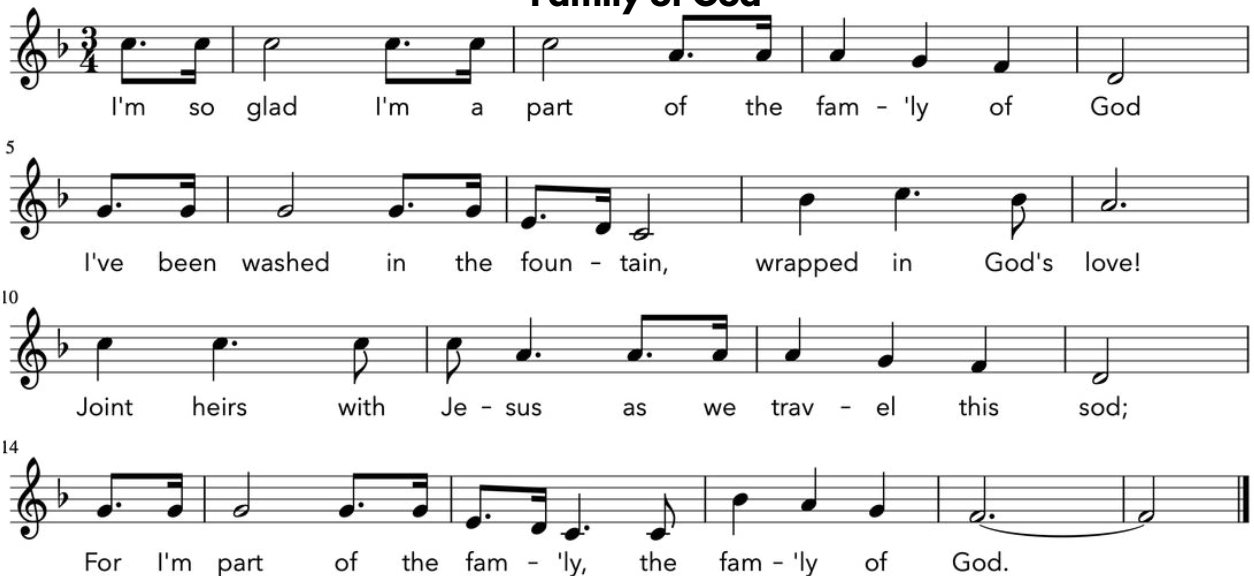
God of promises, you offer us guidance, yet we grasp the hand of the world on our journey. You would nurture us with love and grace, and we feast on the empty calories of success and seduction. You call us to be your faithful people, and we are eager to follow the politicians, the promoters, the petty.

Forgive us, Covenant God. You have not forgotten your promises, nor will you break them. Rather, you come to us so we will know your love. You walk with us, so we will find the way. You redeem us, so we will trust your words which were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

## *SUNG RESPONSE
### Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me




## *PASSING OF THE PEACE
### Family of God



## MATTHEW 25: 14-30 NRSV

‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

## THE MESSAGE

This part of Matthews gospel describes the preparations for Jesus' death. Most of the events of this chapter take place on the Thursday night before Jesus' Friday crucifixion. Although it appears others are in charge of his destiny, his predictions and voluntary surrender demonstrate that he gives his life freely.

At the Last Supper, rather than change Passover, Jesus fulfilled it—Christ Jesus is our Passover lamb. Jesus further describes the wine as blood "of the covenant," indicating that its shedding effectuates a communal relationship between God and the participants in the sacrament.

In Gethsemane, no other passage in the Gospels so clearly and poignantly expresses Jesus' humanity. Jesus faced real temptation in Gethsemane to be deterred from his mission to die on behalf of humanity. Yet he also surrenders entirely to God's will.

For application, the sleeping disciples show that even Christ's closest followers may want to obey him, but they find their bodies and/or sinful human natures unable to cooperate. Still, the difference between Judas and Peter is demonstrated by their behavior after their failures. Peter and the other disciples falter, but their repentance later brings them back to Jesus for restoration.

**HEAR** GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE, PREACHING, AND SONG

*PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

## RESPONSE TO READING

Through this Scripture God is still speaking, **and we are listening.**

## SERMON

**Reverend Thomas Meyer**

# RESPOND

WE BEGIN OUR LIFE OF RESPONDING TO THE GOSPEL THROUGH PRAYER AND OFFERING.

*PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT
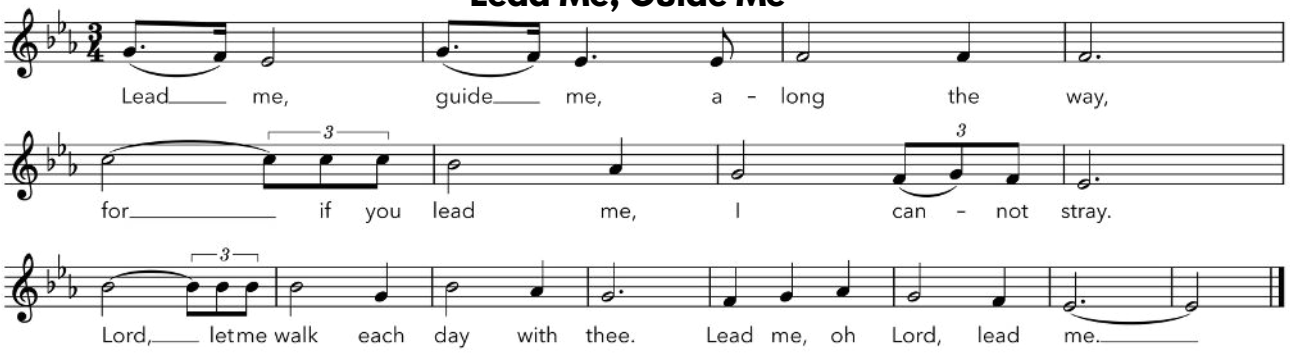
## SHARING OF CONCERNS

For all these persons
and all who are in need.
**Hold your people near, O God.**

## SHARING OF JOYS

We give thanks to God
for these blessings.
**Thanks be to God.**

## CALL TO PRAYER
### Lead Me, Guide Me
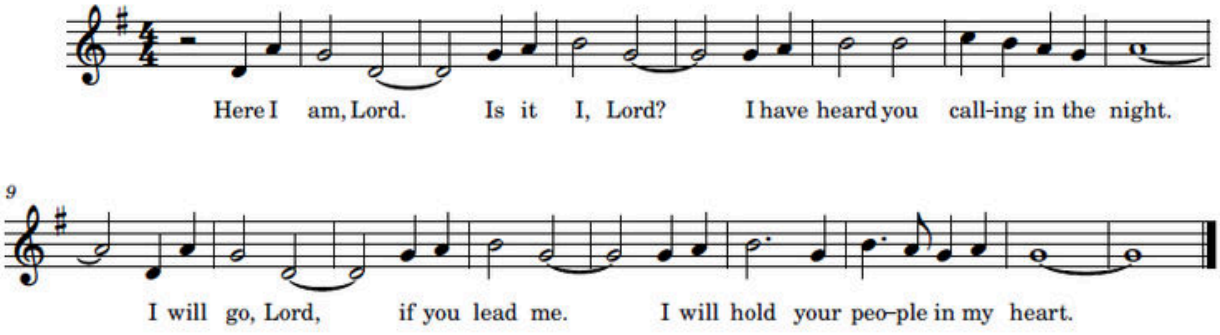



## PASTORAL PRAYER

## INVITATION TO GIVE

Now, in these moments of gratitude, we would offer you a portion of all which you have given to us, Gracious God. We do so, trusting that you will take them, multiplying them in your kingdom, so all might be blessed by your love, your peace, and your hope. Amen.

## OFFERTORY

## DOXOLOGY
### Here I Am, Lord



**FEAST**
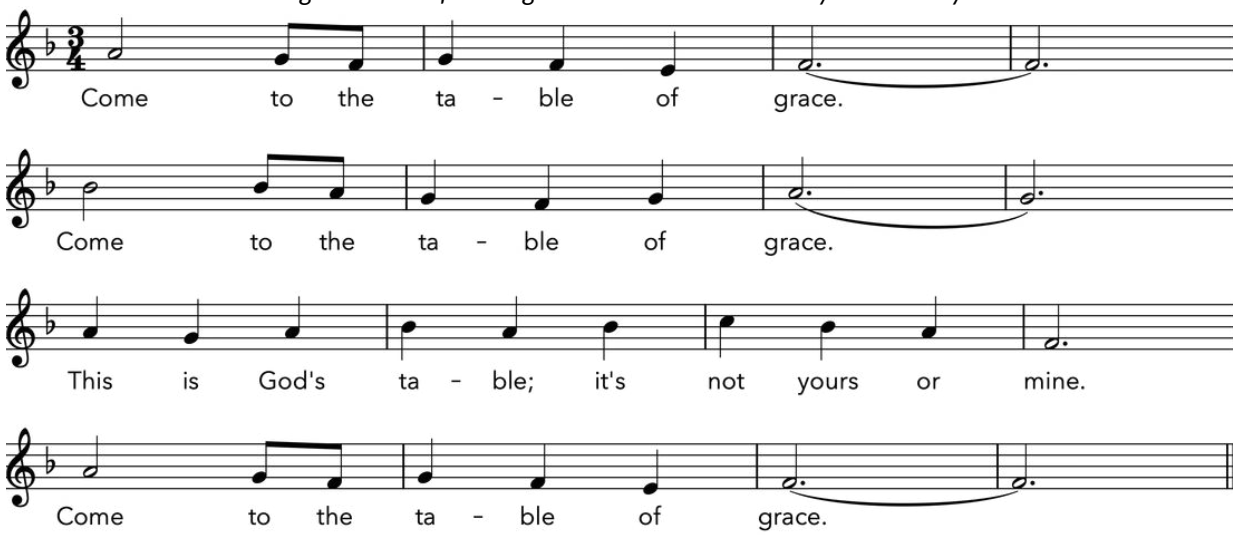
**WE SHARE THE BREAD & CUP AND ARE REMINDED OF THE FEAST WE SHARE AT THE HEAVENLY BANQUET**

***PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT**

## WELCOMING OUR KIDDOS
## Come to the Table of Grace

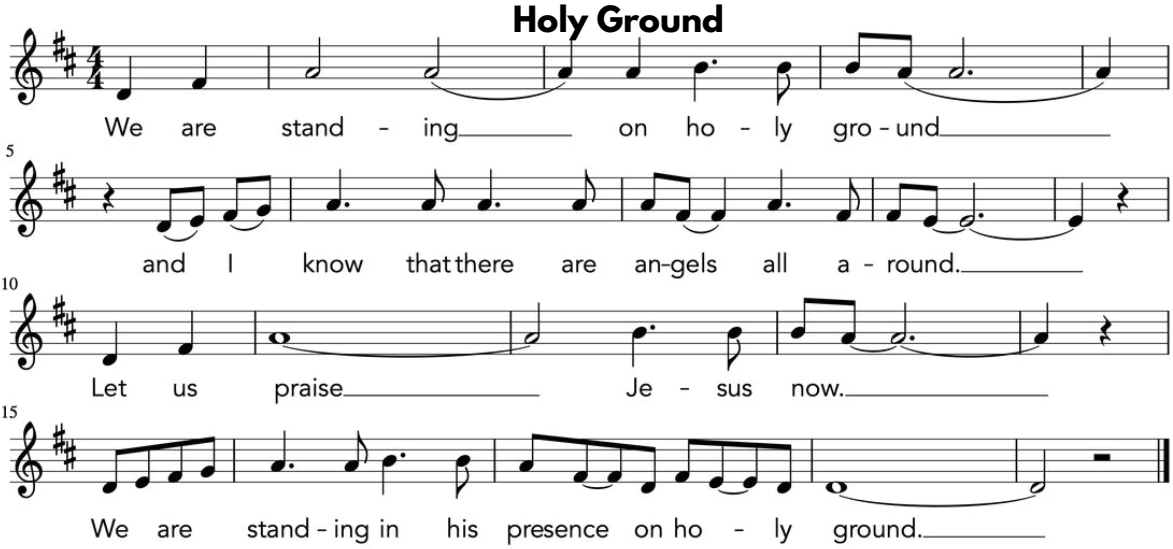
***At Westfield, we believe in an open table.***

*That is, anyone who'd like to share the feast--including children--is welcome to the table of Christ.*
*"But kids don't understand it!" you might think. Neither do you. It's a holy mystery. Literally.*
*We believe in drawing the circle of God's grace wider. This is one way we embody that commitment.*




**Children under 10 wishing to take part in Sunday School may leave at this time.**

## COMMUNION RESPONSE
## Holy Ground




## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...praise your name and join their unending hymn:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**
**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**
**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

..as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, 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 sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

## THE FRACTION

## THE INVITATION

## SHARING THE FEAST

*You'll be invited forward, from the outside aisles, front to back, then the inside aisle from back to front. Take a piece of bread from Rev. Jonathan (Gluten-free available) then a cup of juice from the corner closest to your seat. Drop your empty cup in the baskets staged at the corner columns.*

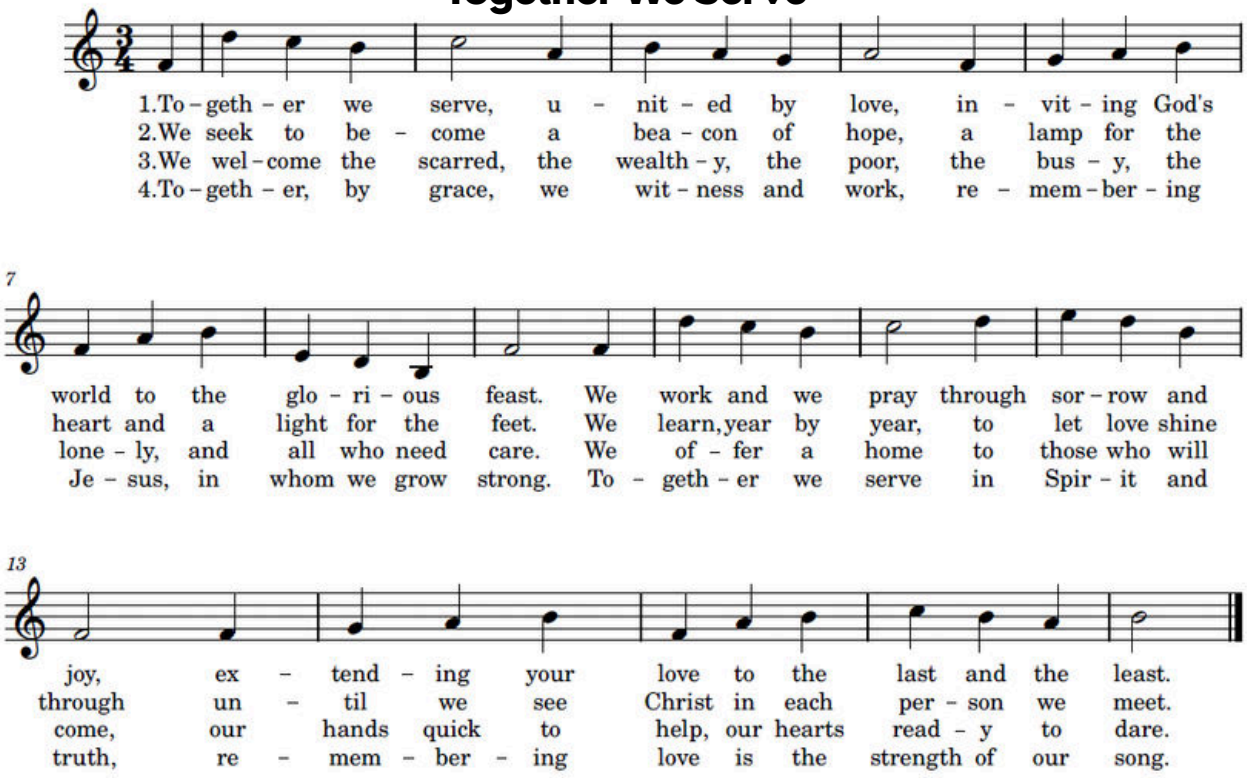
## PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of thie holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your church here and everywhere may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world,through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.**

## SEND

**GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US FORTH IN MISSION FOR THE WORLD.**

## *CLOSING HYMN
## Together We Serve




## *BENEDICTION

*PLEASE RISE
IN BODY OR SPIRIT

REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION.
CCLI COPYRIGHT LICENSE: 20184402 CCLI STREAMING LICENSE: 20184392
ONELICENSE, LICENSE -726080 WORSHIPCAST, LICENSE: 13264

# PAINTING WITH JAY
# 11/17 | 5P

# BINGO at SKFD
# 11/20 || 6:30P

# HANGING OF THE GREENS
# 11/22 | 1P

# POTLUCK
# 11/22 | 5P

## OUR FAITHFULNESS

| | |
|---|---|
| LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE | 105 |
| NOV AVG ATTENDANCE | 108 |
| BUDGET NEEDED WEEKLY | $6,340 |
| OPERATING INCOME* LAST WEEK | $4,209 |
| BUDGET NEEDED MONTHLY | $27,471 |
| OPERATING INCOME* NOV | $6,276 |
| BUDGET NEEDED (YTD) | $278,960 |
| OPERATING INCOME* (YTD) | $268,102 |

*not including donations for the Major Needs Fund, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and designated funds

PLEASE NOTE: All worship services are live-streamed. For the saftey of our community, video surveillance is in use.

THE ONE LINK THAT RULES THEM ALL!

LINKTR.EE/WESTFIELDUCC

# ABOUT WESTFIELD

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:

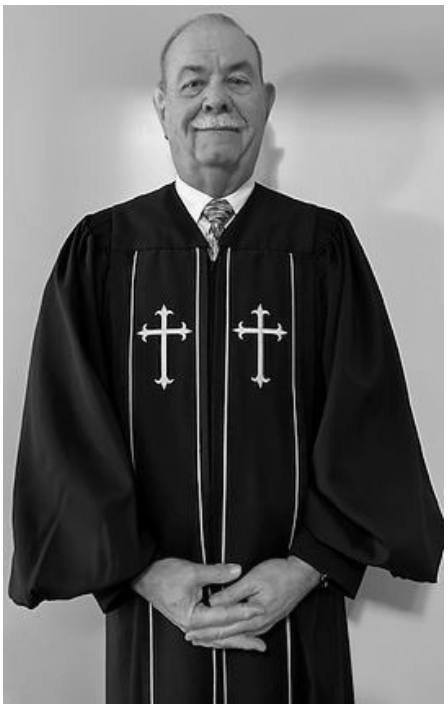
We LOVE kids at Westfield. Children are welcome to stay through the whole service. If your child is more active, relax! We believe God put the wiggles and giggles in children. Don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of worship. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.



## REV. THOMAS MEYER

Rev. Tom Meyer was ordained in 2000 at First Church Congregational, Methuen, MA after completing his studies at Bangor Theological Seminary.
He served two churches in Northern Maine during his seminary years and was called to serve the Congregational Church of Putnam in September of 1998.
He retired after 20+ years in June of 2019 and retuned for 7 months in January of 2023. He has served several churches as supply pastor and one church as Bridge Pastor for 7 months. In December of 2024 he began serving the First Congregational Church of Griswold, CT in the position of Interim Minister which ended in October of 2026.
Rev. Tom is married, with 2 children and 4 grandchildren. He lives with his wife at Briarwood Falls in Danielson,Ct.

Contact info for Rev. Tom:
(o) 860-774-8438
(m) 860-428-6291 (text ok
(e) tom@westfielducc.org

Office Hours:
Mon. - Thurs. 9AM - 12PM
Available by appointment.

*PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

| | |
|---|---|
| **Ministers** | **All of the Congregation** |
| **Bridge Pastor** | **The Rev. Thomas Meyer** |
| **Director of Welcome** | **Kevin Williams** |
| **Director of Music** | **Sue Theroux** |
| **Church Administrator** | **Jess Payette** |
| **Director of Children** | **Donna Bartholomew** |
| **Facilities Caretaker** | **Michelle Plasse** |