

Our Service of Worship for September 12, 2021
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ORDINARY TIME

Westwood First Presbyterian Church

Cincinnati, OH



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “*The Valley of Peace*”—arr. Albin C. Whitworth

During the Prelude, we invite you to take a moment to prepare for worship.

** Call to Worship (responsive)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

And also with you.

God is with his people. He dwells in their midst. Listen and hear him speak.

Our hearts long for his word.

We wait upon the Lord so that we may renew our strength.

God is our help and our support.

His spirit moves among us to lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

With joyful hearts we sing God's praise. With rejoicing we call upon Him.

The Lord is our hope and our salvation.

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

So, we will not fear, even if earthquakes come, and mountains crumble into the sea.

Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!

The Lord Almighty is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress.

Opening Prayer

** Hymn No. 386: “*O for a World*” (verses 1-3, 5) *

A Time of Confession

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession (unison)

Most Merciful and Gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Moment of Silent Confession (*Silent, personal prayers may be offered.*)

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus said: “All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.” This—therefore—is the good news of the Gospel: In Christ Jesus—we are justified, we are forgiven, we are free.

Thanks be to God!

Knowing this, may Christ’s peace be with you—now and always. Amen.

** Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:43-48, 1 John 4:7-8 *

Sermon: *“The Love of God”*

A Time of Offering

[No collection will be taken. Please place your offerings in the collection plate just outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity!]

Invitation

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Solo: *“Witness”*—arr. Mark Hayes

LeeAnne Galioto, mezzo soprano

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer (unison)

[During the prayer, everyone will have an opportunity to offer a joy or concern aloud. During the pause, feel free to call out the name of someone for whom prayer is requested, or briefly, a joy or concern on your heart. The prayer concludes with the Lord’s Prayer, offered in unison.]

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

** Hymn No. 564: *“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies (America the Beautiful)”* *

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: *“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*—arr. Wilbur Held

* The words to the hymns and readings are included with the order of worship.
Where indicated (**) please rise, and stand as you are able.



Pastor Dianna Richardson, New Anointed Apostolic Church
Guest Preacher

Heather MacPhail
Organist/Music Director

Kent Kochheiser
Lay Worship Leader

Jesus
NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

Welcome Pastor Dianna!

This morning we welcome Pastor Dianna Richardson, of the New anointed Apostolic Church. She was married thirty-three years to the late Bishop Timothy Ray Richardson Sr. and she assisted him in ministry for twenty years, and has now been pastoring for five years. She is a teacher by profession, as well as a mother of four and grandmother of seven. Her motto is: "If I can help somebody along the way, then my living won't be in vain!"

O For A World—Hymn # 386

1. O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.
2. We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.
3. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.
4. O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease..

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies (America the Beautiful)—Hymn # 564

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!
2. O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern impassioned stress,
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!
3. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country love, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine!
4. O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

First Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:43-48 (Amplified Bible)

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor (fellow man) and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I say to you, love [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for] your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may [show yourselves to] be the children of your Father who is in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on those who are evil and on those who are good, and makes the rain fall on the righteous [those who are morally upright] and the unrighteous [the unrepentant, those who oppose Him].⁴⁶ For if you love [only] those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do that?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers [wishing them God's blessing and peace], what more [than others] are you doing? Do not even the Gentiles [who do not know the Lord] do that?⁴⁸ You, therefore, will be perfect [growing into spiritual maturity both in mind and character, actively integrating godly values into your daily life], as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Second Scripture Reading: 1 John 4:7-8 (Amplified Bible)—God Is Love



⁷ Beloved, let us [unselfishly] love and seek the best for one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves [others] is born of God and knows God [through personal experience]. ⁸ The one who does not love has not become acquainted with God [does not and never did know Him], for God is love. [He is the originator of love, and it is an enduring attribute of His nature.]

Moment for Meditation—Quotes Remembering 9/11 on Its 20th Anniversary

On September 11, 2001, almost 3,000 people lost their lives. At 8:46am, American Airlines Flight 11 hit the north tower of the World Trade Center, and at 9:03am, United Airlines Flight 175 hit the south tower. At 9:37am, American Airlines Flight 77 hit the Pentagon. And at 10:03am ET, United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in a field near Shanksville, PA. [We] pause to remember those who lost their lives on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, vowing to “never forget.”

“Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness, is a way to honor those we lost, a way to reclaim that spirit of unity that followed 9/11.”

~ President Obama in a 2011 radio address

“If we learn nothing else from this, we learn that life’s short and there’s no time for hate.”

~ Sandy Dahl, wife of Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl, in 2002

“One of the worst days in America’s history saw some of the bravest acts in Americans’ history. We’ll always honor the heroes of 9/11. And here at this hallowed place, we pledge that we will never forget their sacrifice.”

~ President George W. Bush at the Pentagon in 2008

“What separates us from the animals, what separates us from the chaos, is our ability to mourn people we’ve never met.”

~ Author David Levithan

“With almost no time to decide, [your loved ones] gave the entire country an incalculable gift. They saved the Capitol from attack. They saved God knows how many lives. They saved the terrorists from claiming the symbolic victory of smashing the center of American government. They allowed us to survive as a country that could fight terror and still maintain liberty and still welcome people from all over the world from every religion and race and culture...because ordinary people given no time at all to decide did the right thing.”

~ President Bill Clinton in Shanksville, PA, in 2011

“On this day...19 years (September 10th) ago, 246 people went to sleep in preparation for their morning flights. 2,606 people went to sleep in preparation for work in the morning. 343 firefighters went to sleep in preparation for their morning shift. 60 police officers went to sleep in preparation for morning patrol. 8 paramedics went to sleep in preparation for the morning shift. None of them saw past 10:00 am Sept 11, 2001. In one single moment life may never be the same. As you live and enjoy the breaths you take today and tonight before you go to sleep, kiss the ones you love, snuggle a little tighter, and never take one second of life for granted.”

~ Unknown

9.11.01

