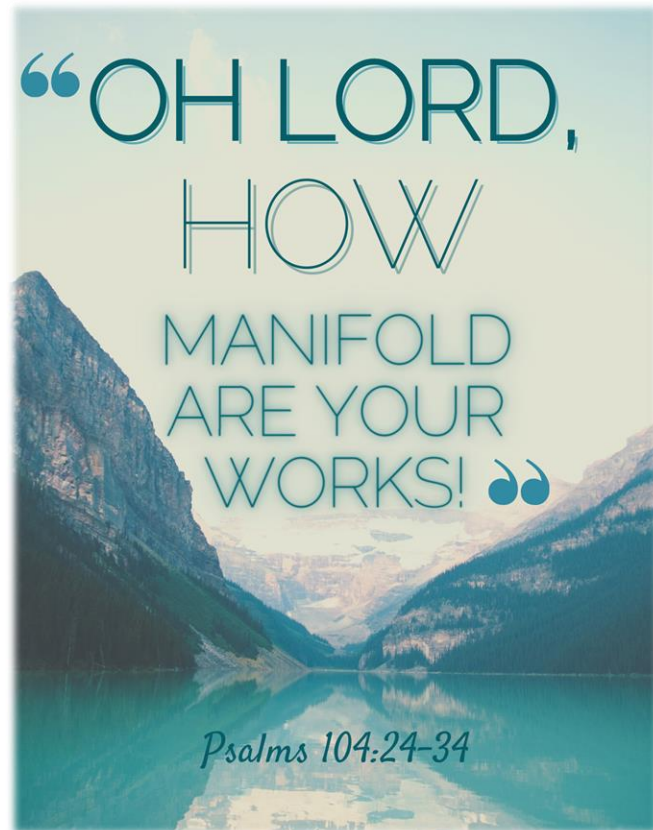


FIRST PARISH of WESTWOOD, UCC

Growing Faith.

Sharing Love.

Grounding Lives.



April 23, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Third Sunday After Easter

We Are an Open & Affirming Church
First Parish of Westwood affirms the dignity and worth of every person
regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or
expression, physical or mental ability, family structure, education level,
economic circumstance and faith or religious tradition.

OFFERTORY

In the Garden - C. Austin Miles

* DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Linda Saripalli

Creating one, all that *is* came into being through your naming: skies and planets, oceans and dry land. Your creating spirit is honored as we live with integrity toward all life. Shape our lives to be stewards in your image, that all may be safe and nurtured under our watchful care, in the name of Jesus Christ who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for all eternity. Amen.

VENTURING OUT INTO THE WORLD

* RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 28

For the Beauty of the Earth

* ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amie Colcord

* BLESSING

Amie Colcord

* FOLLOWING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*Go in Peace -
Kenneth White*

**Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you this day.
Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you always.
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!
Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you always.**

POSTLUDE

Toccata - Girolamo Frescobaldi

*While it is our custom to sit during the postlude, you are free to exit the Sanctuary
at any time at the conclusion of the service.*

†
GATHERING

*Please rise in body or in spirit. The congregation is invited to sing with choir.
Items in **Bold** indicate congregational participation.

CHIMING

WELCOME AND NAMING OUR GRATITUDE

Amie Colcord

CENTERING OUR FOCUS UPON GOD

*Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118 No. 2 -
Johannes Brahms*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Masi-Phelps

Leader: God, we gather in the midst of your creation, to build each other up in the faith you have given us.

People: God we come, not alone but as part of your community.

Leader: We come from isolated lives and self-centered living, seeking community, so that together we might be kept safe in God's love.

People: God we come, not alone but as part of your community.

Leader: As we build together may we pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, open our eyes to see you,

People: God we come, not alone but as part of your community.

Leader: No one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have- Jesus Christ, who takes our anxious thoughts and the worries that blind our sight,

People: God we come, not alone but as part of your community.

Leader: Rescue us dear God from the tumult of our busy lives. Bind us together as we breathe your quiet presence,

People: God we come, not alone but as part of your community.

Leader: Heavenly God, you who are community, shelter us; Christ before us and behind us, Holy Spirit deep within us;

People: God we come, not alone but as part of your community.

{ *Announcements* }



UPCOMING EVENTS

Pastor JT returns Monday, April 24th from sabbath time

Please note: Our worship team will lead us through a celebration of Earth Day during our service today.

Building Relationship with Pastor JT

Because this is our year of relationship, Pastor JT wants to meet with you to hear your stories and learn more about you as we build relationships together. All members of the congregation are invited to schedule a time for yourself or your family to meet with Pastor JT, either at your home, somewhere out in the world like a park or a restaurant, or here at the church. You can schedule a time with Pastor JT by using the QR code below and selecting a time that works for his and your schedule. You can also contact the church office for help with scheduling. If you didn't take this opportunity during the Christmas season, now is a great time to schedule your meeting. But don't forget to find a time, because Pastor JT would like to meet with everyone in the church!



Dates at a Glance

- ✓ **Today –**
Worship team-led Earth Day service @ 10 a.m.
followed by Coffee Hour
- ✓ **Sunday, April 30th:** Worship service @ 10 a.m.
followed by Coffee Hour
- ✓ **Saturday, May 6th @ 5:30 p.m.:**
Chili & Ice Cream Party
- ✓ **Saturday, May 13th:** First Parish Yard Sale

RECOGNIZING GOD’S PRESENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mary Masi-Phelps

We confess we have not done enough to protect our planet. We confess that we have failed to insist that our government act urgently and swiftly on climate. We confess that we, as consumers, have not held companies accountable for their reckless pollution and carbon consumption, nor have we worked hard enough to limit our own consumption and pollution.

Forgive us, O God, and help us to change.

(Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Mary Masi-Phelps

Almighty God- creator, shaper, and sustainer of all life: Thank you for the forgiveness and grace you offer through your Son- the redeemer of all creation. We receive your grace to us, and your love for us as we are, for you love us as we are. And today we open our eyes, ears, and hearts to the pain of the planet amid the changing climate.

We open our hearts to your truth, to see in you the way of healing and hope for our planet. Change us now into what you would have us be. Move us to love and care for your world. We are beloved children of God, forgiven, renewed, and sent out into the world to work for the healing of our planet and for justice, in faithfulness to God.

Amen.

On April 13th, 1,665 food and household items were delivered to the Westwood and Norwood food pantries by some dedicated members of First Parish. These same items, which had been collected all Lent-long by our amazing congregation, had been meticulously sorted and counted the Tuesday before by other dedicated members of First Parish. This is all to say, when we harness the communal power of all our collective efforts, there is no telling how high we can fly.

We are grateful to every one of you who has shared their bounty with those in need of a little extra help this Lenten season. Every single item is a measure of love shown to our community and is a testament to the power of many small actions making an enormous positive impact in our world.

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, MAY 6th @ 5:30 p.m.- Chili & Ice Cream Party

It's time to celebrate all our hard work during the 2023 Lenten Food Drive! As a congregation, we collected 1,665 food/household items for Westwood and Norwood food pantries. Just think of how many people and families in need that will be positively affected by our collective efforts! As a little reward, First Parish will be holding a Chili & Ice Cream Party on Saturday, May 6th at 5:30 p.m. Stay tuned for more details and be sure to sign-up outside the office and let us know who will be there and what everyone will bring.

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, MAY 13th: First Parish Yard Sale

It's that time of year again! Time for the annual First Parish Yard Sale! So dust off your old records and tennis racquets and get them ready for the sale. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby for the following volunteer positions:

- Set-up Thursday, May 11th – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., (maybe less time will be needed)
- Yard sale drop-off and set-up – all day Friday, May 12th into Friday night until 8:30 p.m.
- Yard sale – Saturday, May 13th (2-hour shifts starting at 8:30 a.m.)
- Clean-up – Saturday, May 13th from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Calling All Shepherds!

This is an opportunity for teens and adults to help other parishioners in times of need. Please complete and return the form in the lobby to the church office. We have listed items you can select from. There is no obligation. If you aren't available when contacted, that is okay. For any questions, please reach out to the church office.

(For this portion, we ask that the children join the adults in singing the first verse, followed by the second verse, during which the children and their teachers will depart for Sunday School.)

“Although we go our separate ways
to listen, learn and teach,
keep us together, God, and share
your love with all and each;

and let us hear the news of Christ
so that, when worship's done,
we may be full of Easter-life,
then go, and pass it on!”

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth – John Rutter

SERMON

Pam Kane

HYMN NO. 18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amie Colcord

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

CALL TO OFFERING

Linda Saripalli

We are surrounded by Earth’s gifts of beauty, diversity, and power. We are called to be stewards and caretakers of our amazing and fragile pale blue dot. Let us offer back our gifts of money, skills, and service to our ongoing shared work with our Creator. This morning's offering will now be received.



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Pastor JT’s Cell Phone 707.583.5731
Office Email office@firstparishwestwood.org
Pastor JT’s Email jthills@firstparishwestwood.org

FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD LEADERSHIP

Ministers *The Body of Christ*
Pastor *Rev. JT Hills*
Director of Music *Dr. Sarah Tocco*
Office Administrator *Nicole Wietrak*
Custodian *Roger Matson*
Faith Community Nurse .. *Margery Eramo*
Moderator *Sharon Hobbs*
Technology .. *Doug Hyde*
Liturgists. *Amie Colcord,
Kathy Davis, Pam Kane, Mary Masi-Phelps & Linda Saripalli*
Ushers. *Barb Delisle & Sharon Hobbs*
Nursery Care .. *Alison Deininger*
Coffee Hour Host. *Bob Deininger*

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The flowers this morning are given by Shelley Reeve in appreciation of First Parish of Westwood.

www.firstparishwestwood.org
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