



# *First Parish of Westwood, UCC*

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**June 20, 2021, 10:00 a.m.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Pentecost**

## ***GATHERING FOR THE WORD***

### Meditation

"The way most people talk about darkness, you would think that it came from a whole different deity, but no. To be human is to live by sunlight and moonlight, with anxiety and delight, admitting limits and transcending them, falling down and rising up. To want a life with only half of these things in it is to want half a life, shutting the other half away where it will not interfere with one's bright fantasies of the way things ought to be."

Barbara Brown Taylor,

*Learning to Walk in the Dark: Because Sometimes God Shows Up at Night*

### CHIMING

### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy Hyde,  
Search Committee Chairperson

### CENTERING

*Notturmo*

Edvard Grieg

### HYMN 12

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

ELLACOMBE

*I sing the mighty power of God that mad the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.*

\* Please stand as able.

**Bold** text is for congregational responses.

# ENGAGING THE WORD

## LESSON

Reader: Sharon Hobbs  
Genesis 1:1-5, *NRSV*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture, among us, and within us.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE *Luminous Darkness* Rev. JT Hills

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS  
PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

ANTHEM *Footprints in the Sand* David Angerman  
First Parish Choir

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD AND TO ONE ANOTHER  
Call to the Offering  
Offertory *Gabriel's Oboe* Ennio Morricone  
Doxology  
\* Dedication of the Offering

# GOING WITH THE WORD

HYMN 556 *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* HOLY MANNA  
*God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place  
Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space;  
We, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you;  
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.*

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Sonata in C Major, K 14 W. A. Mozart  
II. Allegro

***Welcome*** to First Parish of Westwood  
United Church, an accessible, solar-powered,  
and Open & Affirming congregation of the  
United Church of Christ.

## ***Welcome Rev. Hills***

Join us in welcoming **Rev. JT Hills** and family  
to our congregation this morning.

Originally from Nebraska, then California,  
Reverend Hills (JT) is from a family of  
ministers. His grandparents served in UCC  
churches, and his mother also attended seminary.  
JT earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from  
Doane College in Crete, Nebraska and his  
Master of Divinity from Pacific School of  
Religion, Berkeley, California.

JT was ordained in 2014 and served as senior  
minister at the Evangelical United Church of  
Christ for five years in Tell City, Indiana. From  
2018 to 2020, he served as Senior Minister at  
United Church of Big Rapids, Michigan, and this  
past year as Bridge (Interim) Pastor at East  
Church UCC in Grand Rapids, Michigan. JT and  
his wife Kelse have two children, Jay (8yrs) and  
Quorra (6yrs).

### **Church Staff**

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor  
Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor  
Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music  
Margery Eramo, Faith Community Nurse  
Meg Kara, Church Administrator  
Denis Wholey, Sexton



“Like”  
First Parish of Westwood UCC  
on Facebook.

## **Today**

**Guest musician:** *Thomasine Berg*, flute

*Barb Delisle and Pam Kane* are our **Ushers**.

**FLOWERS** are given by *Barb, Jed and Scott  
Delisle in loving memory of Susie Helgeson*.

### **First Parish of Westwood UCC Open and Affirming Covenant**

*Jesus, through his teachings and deeds,  
emphasized God’s two greatest commandments:*

- 1. “You shall love the Lord your God with all  
your heart, and with all your soul, and with  
all your mind, and*
- 2. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

*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.*

*We open our hearts in love and extend our hands  
in welcoming and including all who seek  
participation in the sacraments and rites of the  
Christian faith, leadership, fellowship, and  
mission work of our congregation.*

*The members of First Parish of Westwood,  
covenant to continue to live out the inclusive love  
of Jesus, faithfully discerning what that looks  
like in both the present and the future.*

December 4, 2020



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“We believe in God’s

**continuing testament in the world.”**

As the “*God is still speaking*” church, the **United Church of Christ** believes, as did our historic predecessors, there is more truth and light to be revealed in God’s holy Word. We take the Bible seriously, but not literally, relying on God’s Spirit to guide us in ways that are faithful and relevant for people today. We believe the church’s role is to speak words of love, and also to challenge the powers that oppress people everywhere.

“We believe in extravagant welcome.”

“*No matter where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcome here,*” is more than a slogan - it is a theological principle. Jesus’ ministry was about expanding the circle of those who were included as his disciples. We believe the church should be a place of welcome for people of all ethnicities, genders, and expressions, abilities, and ages, regardless of political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, or income.

**“We believe in changing lives.”**

In our families, our church communities and around the world, we believe in God’s power to change lives. Our human effort guided by prayer and the community of faith helps us to express the life changing message of Jesus. We believe it is the church’s role to give generously of its resources and time to make the world a better place and share the hope we have found in Christ.

**FIRST PARISH CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, June 20**

**Candidating Weekend**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Worship at **10:00am**, Sanctuary

Led by Rev. JT Hills

Congregational Meeting to follow.

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***SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS  
9:30am, Outdoors on the Patio, weather permitting, or in the Gathering Hall***

**SUNDAY, June 27**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Led by Rev. Richard Edens

**SUNDAY, July 4**

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Worship this Sunday will be via **Facebook**

Led by Rev. Richard Edens

**SUNDAY, July 11**

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Led by Bob Deininger

**SUNDAY, July 18**

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Led by Kathleen Davis

**SUNDAY, July 25**

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Led by Amie Colcord

**SUNDAY, August 1**

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Led by Rev. Dr. Jill Edens

**SUNDAY, August 8**

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Led by Rev. Richard Edens

**SUNDAY, August 15**

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Led by Rev. Dr. Jill Edens