

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

## Today

FLOWERS are given by *Kathleen Davis*.

### 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

### 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



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**"Like"**  
**First Parish of  
Westwood UCC  
on Facebook.**



## First Parish of Westwood, UCC

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**June 6, 2021, 10:00 a.m.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Pentecost**

### GATHERING FOR THE WORD

#### Meditation

The real sin against the Holy Spirit is refusing to recognize, with 'theological' joy, some concrete liberation that is taking place before one's very eyes.

Juan Luis Segundo

#### CHIMING

#### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CENTERING

Excerpt from *Arabesk*

Robert Schumann

#### HYMN 401

*O God in Whom All Life Begins*

NOEL

*O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit,  
bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root.  
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace;  
deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.*

### ENGAGING THE WORD

Reader: Kathleen Davis

Isaiah 49:24-25

#### LESSON

Can the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued?

But thus says the LORD:

Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued;  
for I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children.

\* Please stand as able.

**Bold** text is for congregational responses.

LESSON

Mark 3:20-35

Mark uses the literary technique of “sandwiching” to interrupt one story with another and thus knit independent stories together such that the stories shed light on one another. For example, what does Jesus plunder from Satan and give to God. The next story provides the answer: those who obey God’s will are members of Jesus’ true family and those redeemed from Beelzebul.

...and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, ‘He has gone out of his mind.’ And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.’ And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

‘Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin’— for they had said, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’ Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, ‘Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.’ And he replied, ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.’

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture, among us, and within us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

ANTHEM

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

Traditional Spiritual

***RESPONDING TO THE WORD***

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD AND TO ONE ANOTHER

Call to the Offering

Offertory

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Graham Kendrick

Doxology

\* Dedication of the Offering

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

*Invitation*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right for you made us,

and before us, you made the world we inhabit,

and before the world, you made the eternal home in which you dwell.

**All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you;**

**all that is lovely, all who are loving point to you as their fulfilment.**

Grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond our ken,

we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain,

for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

**In Jesus we see your way. We thank you for Jesus’ compassion, changing hearts; his clarity, contradicting our generalities; Jesus’ steadfastness in suffering and dying; and his rising to life breathing forgiveness and breaking the cycle of vengeance. Thank you.**

Hear, too, our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit,

**who confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness.**

*Words of Institution*

*Sharing of the Bread and Cup*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**In gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Send us out to live as changed people. We have shared your Table and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us and encourage many through us. May we live to your glory both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of heaven. Amen.**

***GOING WITH THE WORD***

HYMN

*Take My Life, God, Let It Be*

VIENNA

*Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.*

*Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Prelude in C Major*

J. S. Bach