WESTWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



July 19, 2020 10:00 AM

SEVENTH Sunday After PENTECOST

PRELUDE "*Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above*" arr. T. C. McKibben

WELCOME

OPENING OURSELVES TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

**Divine Goodness, Holy One, pause us for this moment, bear us up in this time, hold us for eternity. We tune our spirits to truth. We begin to let go of expectations. We allow all beings the fullness of their own beauty. Amen.**

HYMN “To God be the Glory” UMH 98

CALL TO PRAYER “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” FWS 2193

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 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.**

MUSIC MINISTRY "*As the Deer*" M. Nystrom, arr. L. Larson

GIVING OUR GIFTS – We can give online at our website:

[www.umc-westwood.org](http://www.umc-westwood.org)

or we can mail our gifts in to the church office:

105 Fairview Ave. Westwood, NJ 07675

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God of Salvation, we seek to be children of your heavenly kingdom. Yet, our self-deceiving ways cause us to believe that we will be more generous givers once we have satisfied our own personal, material desires. Change our thinking. Help us to be faithful disciples who recognize that everything we have in life is a gift from you. Inspire us to share our resources as a response to your unconditional love. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Reader:* The Song of Songs is biblical poetry at its most lush. In this book, adoration for another is full of metaphors from nature–the voice is like the coo of a dove, the curve of the landscape is seen as the curve of the Body. Perhaps the hills and mountains are the curve of the Beloved Creator and our bodies are to be seen as the beautiful handiwork of the same Artisan of Life. In this passage for today, the culminating conclusion is that there is no flaw in the utter beauty of the subject of adoration. This does not mean that

perfection is the goal, but that there is no flaw in imperfection. And the beauty of the one beheld is not dependent on the judgment of the beholder. Let us enter this Lectio Divina allowing judgment to suspend, to lift, to dissipate so that we might adore all things, even ourselves, as the “Dearest” to whom this letter is addressed.

*Song of Songs 4: 1-7*

VISIO DIVINA

 TODAY’S MESSAGE

“The Beauty of a World Without a ‘Why’”

Pastor Wayne

CALL TO CONTEMPLATION

CLOSING HYMN “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” (2 times) UMH 334

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "*They'll Know We Are Christians*" Mark Hayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS