

A  
House  
Divided

**WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**A United Church of Christ**  
**(708) 865-1282**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
**“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s**  
**journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!**

**July 16, 2023**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Welcome on behalf of our pastoral staff**  
Rev. Joseph E. Mills, III, Pastor 708/562-0759  
Lawrence Underwood, Music Director  
Joyce Kelstrom, Bell Choir Director  
Pastor Vinod Wesley, Chicago Tamil Church Pastor

**Altar Flowers:**

**Liturgist: Sue Becerra**

**Ushers: Marge Nelson and Sandy Tavernier**  
**Westchester Community Church, United Church of Christ**  
**1840 Westchester Boulevard**  
**Westchester, IL 60154**  
**708/865-1282**

**[www.westchesterucc.org](http://www.westchesterucc.org)**

**Email: [westcomchurch@hotmail.com](mailto:westcomchurch@hotmail.com)**

**(If you have a prayer request you’d like to share with us,**  
**go to CHAT on your Zoom page and type it in**  
**so we can share it with others)**

**\*\*ALSO REMEMBER TO MUTE YOUR ZOOM**  
**SCREEN SO WE CAN HEAR THE PASTOR**  
**UNLESS IT’S A TIME TO SHARE**

## WORSHIP SERVICE

*"A house divided against itself cannot stand." I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other." — Abraham Lincoln*

### GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*THAT WE WOULD CELEBRATE THE LORD #10  
*"Sing a New Song"*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Sue Becerra

Leader: Open our hearts to Your Divine Purpose, Lord.  
Open them so that we would deeply want to be part of  
it, and desire to have You work through us.

**People:** **May we, through prayer and community, work  
together for God's good for our own church,  
and, in strengthening our church, for our wider  
community.**

Leader: Help us plant seeds of Grace and Hope in all of our  
ministry.

**People:** **Help us spread Your Word and Your Truth by  
showing that we choose to live in and by it.**

**ALL: AND MAY WHAT WE DO YIELD A HUNDRED-  
FOLD AND BEYOND, IN ACTS OF LOVING KINDNESS  
AND BLESSINGS FOR OTHERS, IN CHRIST'S HOLY  
NAME. AMEN.**

A Reading from God's Holy Word Sue Becerra

**From the Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23**

p. 11, NT, Pew Bible  
p. 16, NT, Large Print

\*A GLORIA PATRI #734

*"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."*

WE PRAY TO THE LORD

#568

*“People Need the Lord”*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Mills

THE LORDS PRAYER (Please Use Debts/Debtors)

THE MORNING OFFERING

**(THOSE AT HOME, PLEASE SEND IN GIFTS BY CHECK  
OR USE OUR ON-LINE GIVING)**

\*THE DOXOLOGY

#34

*“Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.”*

\*A PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

**Think of what will happen as we intentionally plan and use these gifts for You, Lord. So we pray that You will guide us in our prayers and in our thinking and in our life together. May these gifts make a holy and loving difference, bringing forth Your Way and Your purposes to the world. And this, through Jesus our Lord, we pray. Amen.**

THE MEDITATION

*“So What is Really Important?”*

\*WE WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW GOD’S LOVE #581

*“Called As Partners in Christ’s Service”*

THE COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Mills

+++++

Are you willing to adopt an area outside of the church? That could include the front bushes in front of the sanctuary, either side of the Fellowship Hall, the area in front of the Education Building, or whatever you can do.

Let Pastor Joe know if there is an area you are willing to adopt and help take care of!!

**CALENDAR**

**TODAY**

Worship 10 am

Noon—Chicago Tamil Worship

**ALL WEEK**

Westchester Park District Day Camp

**MONDAY**

Pastor at Westchester Economic Dev. Mtg.

7:30 a.m.

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

Zoom Bible Study

Pastor doing Continuing Ed thru UCC

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

Youth Overnight—Lounge

**SATURDAY**

**NEXT SUNDAY**

10:00 am. Worship

Noon - Chicago Tamil Worship

**BIRTHDAYS THRU 07/23:**

**07/16 Guillermo Ruiz**

**07/17 Michelle Blomeke, Marge Nelson**

**07/20 Ethan Hansen, Alexandra Hansen, Janet Monahan**

**07/22 Patricia Singletary, Patricia VonLaven**

**07/23 Jalen Stanley**

**ANNIVERSARIES THRU 07/23:**

**07/20 Edward and Caitlin Becerra, 4 years**

**We have a Youth Overnight this Friday night/Saturday morning. If you know of a High School youth or young College adult, let Pastor Joe know following worship!**

## **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**PEOPLE AT THEIR HOMES:** Dick Dolnics, Jean Stange, Carol Hoppe, Diane Ollie-Coleman, Lou Bender, Walt and Lil Suva, John Mika, Shirley Patton, Emil Poprawski (and we remember spouse Pris), Carol Hoppe, Pastor Bob Hempel, Elaine Dildine, Carol Tibbie, Marilyn Sinde, Ed Monahan, Scott & Sharon Marczuk, Delores Patak, Aldona Kitt, Jerry Volkmar, Judy Frandsen, Gary Locigno, Kim Powers, Don Smith, Mark Henning, Carin Lucas, Serena Ivers & Chris, Elayne Dalheim, Milton and Patricia

Ladner, Michael Kelstrom, Raymond and Patrick McCarthy

**FRIENDS IN PRAYERS:** Vi and Richard Allen, Barb Anthony, Robert Baker, Sharen Barile, Andee Brown, Lindsey Bzdyl, Evaleen Catrambone, Jim Craver, Dolores Donnelly, Pam Ensley, Denise Faikus, Lefirm Ellis, Ed Flowers, Bob Fridrych, Herman Goodloe, Addy Grande, Nancy Guerra, Donna Hansen, Kerry Ann, Kylie Grayson, Karen Hekr, Aimee Hudson, Miranda Johnson, Yolanda Keith, Betsy LeClerc, Martha Legging, Bill Lietzow, LeAnn Lipman, Lynn & Art, Sandy Matilus, Greg Moore, Amy Morlier, Patrick Mueller, Rich Panesh, Pat brother-in-law to Betty Ann Richeson, Brenda Phillips, Diana & Larry Ridener, Jake Roger, Scott Rouse, Jeff Schroeder, Heather Steanrod, Addilen Tibbie, Anthony Taylor, Luella Terry, Patricia Traylor, Ron Tulke, Lawrence Underwood Sr., Elmer Weil, Gloria Williams, Carol Wischhover, Monica Wojdziak, David Yondorf, Mary Lou Zellman

**OUR MILITARY:** Samantha Brown (overseas), Tyler Kimbler (Ft. Bragg, NC), Jay & Bri Mills (Ft. Bliss, Texas), Malik Taylor—Norfolk, VA, Anthony Taylor—Ft. Hood, TX; Nick Weeks-Peace Corp. South Africa

**HOSPITALIZED/Long-Term:** Marylu Mills (Pastor Joe's mom) - in hospice at Hearthside Manor, Tacoma, WA; Lil Klippel - The Radcliffe 410 Irving Park Road, Wood Dale, IL 60191 Room 418; Allan Pegues —Symphony Chicago; Steve Tomporowski – Wisconsin; Rosemarie Kosik (at Terra Vista, 1635 Ardmore, Oakbrook Terrace, 60181),

We pray with the **Tagliola, Reiter, Fisch, Cerino, and Trelenberg families** in the death of **Albert Tagliola**.

**Transitions ladies** will be filling small cosmetic bags for Constance Morris House. Grab all those hotel soaps, shampoo etc. this summer. Take an extra toothpaste when you visit the dentist, ask your hairdresser for hair care samples. Stock up and we'll see you in the fall.

# Sing a New Song

*Refrain (Unison)*

Sing a new song un - to the Lord; let your song be

sung from moun - tains high. Sing a new song

un - to the Lord, sing-ing, "Al - le - lu - ia."

1 Yah - weh's peo - ple dance for joy; O come be -  
2 Rise, O chil - dren, from your sleep; your Sav - ior  
3 Glad my soul for I have seen the glo - ry

fore the Lord. And play for him on  
now has come. † He has turned your  
of the Lord. The trum - pet sounds; the

*to Refrain*

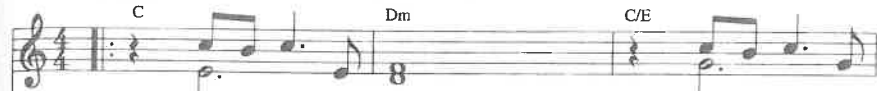
glad tam - bou-rines, and let your trum - pet sound.  
sor - row to joy, and filled your soul with song.  
dead shall be raised. I know my Sav - ior lives.



# People Need the Lord

568

Unison  
C



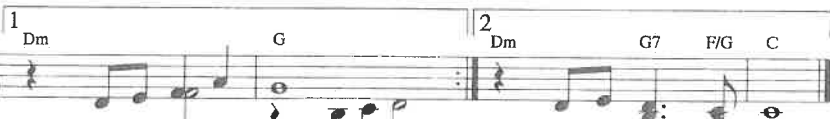
1 Peo-ple need the Lord,  
2 Peo-ple need the Lord,

peo-ple need the  
peo-ple need the



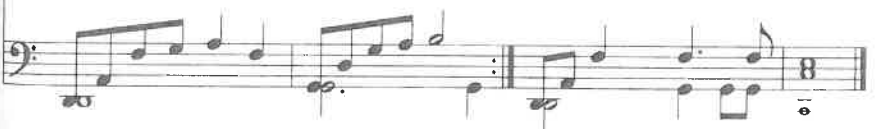
Lord;  
Lord;

at the end of bro - ken dreams,  
when will we re - al - ize



he's the o - pen door.

peo-ple need the Lord.



WORDS and MUSIC: Greg Nelson (1948- ) and Phill McHugh (1951- ); arr. David Allen (1941- )

Words and Music © 1983 River Oaks Music/Shepherd's Fold Music (Admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing)

# 581 Called as Partners in Christ's Service



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,  
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,  
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



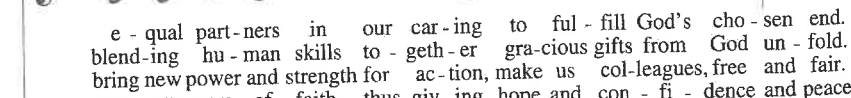
we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.  
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.  
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,  
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



e-equal part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.  
 blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.  
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.  
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



WORDS: Jane Parker Huber (1926- )  
 MUSIC: John Zundel (1815-1882)

Words © 1981 Jane Parker Huber (Admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

BEECHER  
 8.7.8.7.D

## **ON-LINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE!!**

### **WCC introduces a new electronic option for making your offerings to the church.**

We are utilizing VANCO Financial Solutions to safely and securely make your offering. Your gift will be automatically debited from your checking/savings account or processed using your debit/credit card.

Vanco Online Giving allows:

1. Anytime and anywhere giving, conveniently and securely.
2. No need to write out physical checks or prepare envelopes
3. Schedule for and manage recurring offerings.
4. View your complete online-giving history.

You can access Vanco by using our website [www.westchesterucc.org](http://www.westchesterucc.org) and click on the E Giving tab - or - scan the QR Code on your smart phone



If you need any help please see Sue Becerra or Carolyn Savage or call the church office.

## A House Divided

In their very conservative town of Colorado Springs, CO, Vista Grande UCC has long been visible as an LGBTQ+ ally, using their sign and flagpole “to proclaim that Black Lives Matter, immigrants deserve justice and queer people are uniquely made in the image of an expansively loving God.”\*

Rev. Mallory Everhart, Vista Grande’s pastor, believes that the church’s visible commitment to providing safe haven for all on the margins helped the wider community and city to trust the congregation in the wake of last November’s tragic shooting at Club Q on the eve of Trans Day of Remembrance. The shooter killed 5 people and injured 22, but Rev. Everhart adds that he “traumatized an entire community.”

Everhart reflects, “On Nov. 20 and beyond, we were true to our reputation and rose up to hold space and provide care to a stunned and terrified community. In their book, *Emergent Strategy*, activist adrienne maree brown writes that community organizing ‘moves at the speed of trust.’ If I have any advice about crisis response, it’s this: make connections and build trust now. No matter your good intentions, you will not be a community partner in times of crisis if you don’t.”\*

In today’s reading, Jesus tells the parable of the sower, warning that not all seed that is planted falls on fertile ground. He is speaking as loudly to the church of the 21st century America as he did to his little community in 1st century Palestine. In a world with growing visible division and terror, your church community has the opportunity to sow seeds now that will grow and flourish or will wither and fall away when a crisis arrives. Today is the right day to ask where the seeds you are planting are growing in your congregation, in your community, and in all the world.

\*Quotations from: Larkman, C. (2023, January 13). *UCC pastor: In the new year, resolve to listen, make connections, build trust*. United Church of Christ. <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-pastor-in-the-new-year-resolve-to-listen-make-connections-build-trust/>

