

Refrain: Forward through the ages, in unbroken line, move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Wider grows the kingdom, reign of love and light; for it we must labor, till our faith is sight. Prophets have proclaimed it, martyrs testified, poets sung its glory, heroes for it died. (Refrain)

Not alone we conquer not alone we fall; in each loss or triumph lose or triumph all. Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole, move we on together to the shining goal. (Refrain)

**\*Benediction** Rev. Tony Vinson

**Postlude** Elenor Coursey  
Festive Voluntary Henry Purcell

\*Congregation is invited to stand

### Worship and Ministry Team

Rev. Tony Vinson <i>Interim Senior Pastor</i>	Samuel Herrera <i>Media Specialist</i>
Rev. Emmanuel Afful <i>Associate Pastor</i>	Lynne Jackson <i>Director of Music Ministries</i>
Terra Campbell <i>Children's Ministry Director</i>	Danielle Kubala <i>Sound Technician</i>
Brian Davis <i>Contemporary Worship Leader</i>	Eunice Lee <i>Organist</i>
Fritz Eagleton <i>Camera Operator</i>	Sarah Surginer <i>Media Specialist</i>
Rev. Charlie Hall <i>Pastor Emeritus, 2010</i>	Rev. John Collier <i>Pastor Emeritus, 2024</i>



**School of Fine Arts Recitals, May 5, 2:00 pm and May 19, 2:00 & 4:00 pm** Our annual spring recitals are the high point of our year. All are encouraged to come and enjoy the performances of our children, youth, and adult students!

**West U Methodist School Art Show, May 9, 5:30-7:30 pm** Join the preschool as we celebrate the creative minds of our students and all they have accomplished this year! Students will have their art on display and will enjoy a special dinner.

**Senior Sunday, May 19, 11:00 am** On May 19th we will be recognizing our graduating high school seniors during Worship! If you have a graduating senior in your family, please contact Terra Campbell at [tcampbell@westumethodist.org](mailto:tcampbell@westumethodist.org).

**West U Methodist School Spirit Night at Betsy's, May 21, 3:00-8:00 pm** Join us at Betsy's at Evelyn's park on May 21st and help support our preschool! Enjoy a meal with friends and family between 3:00 and 8:00 pm and 20% of what is sold will be donated back to the preschool!

**Friday Fun Night, May 31, 7:00-9:00 pm** The Children's Ministry will have our next Friday Fun Night in the John and Polly Collier High Court on May 31st. It is going to be a night of fun, games, and a movie!

Find a full calendar and list of ministry opportunities at [westumethodist.org](http://westumethodist.org)

Sundays

Sunday School at 10:00 am & Worship at 11:00 am

**West University United Methodist Church**

3611 University Blvd. Houston, Texas 77005  
713-664-8111 | [Westumethodist.org](http://Westumethodist.org)



**Prelude**  
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
Elenor Coursey  
arr. John Innes

**Announcements**  
Rev. Emmanuel Afful

**Opening Prayer**

**\*Call to Worship**  
Craig Nunez

God, in His grace, has engrafted us into His Kingdom.  
**We are the body of Christ, the people of God.**  
Therefore, let us abide in Him,  
**That we may be faithful and fruitful in Christ.**  
Come, Thou fount of every blessing,  
**Tune our hearts to stay connected to each other.**

**\*Opening Hymn**  
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
Hymnal 400

Come, Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I'm come; and I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

**\*Affirmation of Faith**  
Craig Nunez

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**  
Hymnal 70

**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.**

**Children's Message**  
Terra Campbell

**\*Greeting One Another**

**\*Song of Praise**  
You Never Let Go  
CCLI Song #4674166  
Worship Band  
B. Redman, M. Redman

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, Your perfect love is casting out fear. And even when I'm caught in the middle of the storms of this life, I won't turn back I know You are near.

And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me, and if my God is with me: Whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?

Chorus  
Oh no, You never let go! Through the calm and through the storm. Oh no, You never let go, in ev'ry high and ev'ry low. Oh no, You never let go, Lord You never let go of me!  
(You keep on runnin' and You never let go!)

And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on, a glorious light beyond all compare. And there will be an end to these troubles, but until that day comes, we'll live to know You here on the earth.

Bridge  
Yes I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on, and there will be an end to these troubles, but until that day comes, still I will praise You, still I will praise You.

**Offering**  
Rev. Emmanuel Afful

**Offertory**  
Reflection  
CCLI Song #7217460  
Worship Band  
Ben Ady, Sam Hoffman

**\*Doxology**  
Hymnal 95

**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.**

**Pastoral Prayer**  
Rev. Emmanuel Afful

**Lord's Prayer**  
Hymnal 895

**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.**

**Anthem**  
Spirit, Open My Heart  
CCLI Song #50-5556  
Kathryn Brown, Violin, Chancel Choir  
Alfred Fedak

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As You love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart. God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender. All my coldness and fear to Your grace I now surrender. Write Your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story. In each thought and word and deed, may my living bring You glory.

May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

**\*Gospel Reading**  
John 15:1-8 | NRSV

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in Me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.

The Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks Be to God.**

**Sermon**  
"Stay Connected"  
Rev. Tony Vinson

**Service of Confirmation**

**Introduction**  
Rev. Emmanuel Afful

**Presentation of the Candidates**  
Paige Dominey

It is my privilege to present: Grant Brown, Lucy Dison, Bonnie Kearney, Lily Schmitt, Scarlett Schmitt, and Cecelia Waugh for Confirmation.

**Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith**  
Rev. Tony Vinson

**Laying on of Hands: Confirmation**  
Rev. Tony Vinson  
Rev. Emmanuel Afful

**Receiving of New Members**

Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love to West University United Methodist Church. With you, we renew our covenant to faithfully participate in the ministries of this church through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.**

**\*Hymn of Commitment**  
Forward Through the Ages  
Hymnal 555

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line, move the faithful spirits at the call divine; gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord, manifold the service, one the sure reward.