**Westworth United Church**

an Affirming Ministry zhi-kagige-aniishag, nindoodem Treaty No. 1 gii-aniishin, Anishinabe (Ojibwe), Ininew (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene, mii ottawa Dakota akina. Mii naadamaadwin Métis Nation nindizhinowin, bihkikwe Métis Nation aazhoon.

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent – Hope – You are a Blessing

**We Gather to Worship**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Introit**

**Call to Worship**

God says,

**“Do not be afraid.”**

God says,

**“I have called you by your name.”**

God says,

**“I will be with you”**

God says

**“You are precious and holy in my sight.”**

At the beginning of this season,

**At the start of this week,**

At the top of this hour,

**May we wrap ourselves in these words.**

**May we begin again.**

Let us worship our God!

**Advent Candle Lighting**

**Hymn** Shine! Words and music copyright 1999 Bruce Harding

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*Shine upon us*

*Like the morning sun rising in the eastern sky.*

*Shine upon us.*

*May the radiance of your love and comfort fill our lives.*

*God, we wait for your light;*

*Guide us to your way of peace.*

*May our darkness disappear!*

*From all sorrow may we find release*.

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer Seeking Reconciliation**

**Affirming God,**

**Your first words to creation were words of love.**

**You looked at this earth and said, “It is good.”**

**You spoke affirmations through the prophets.**

**You spoke blessings over Mary.**

**You spoke belonging through Christ.**

**At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing,**

**Made in your image, held in your love.**

**Forgive us for forgetting this truth.**

**Forgive us for measuring our worth by society’s measuring stick instead of yours.**

**We believe.**

**Help our unbelief.**

**In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

…Hear these words from Isaiah:

God says,

**“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.**

**I have called you by name.**

**You are mine.”**

We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

**Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.**

**Sung Response** MV 33 Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope trad. Cameroon

**The Peace of Christ**

**Finding the Star**

**Celebrating Communion**

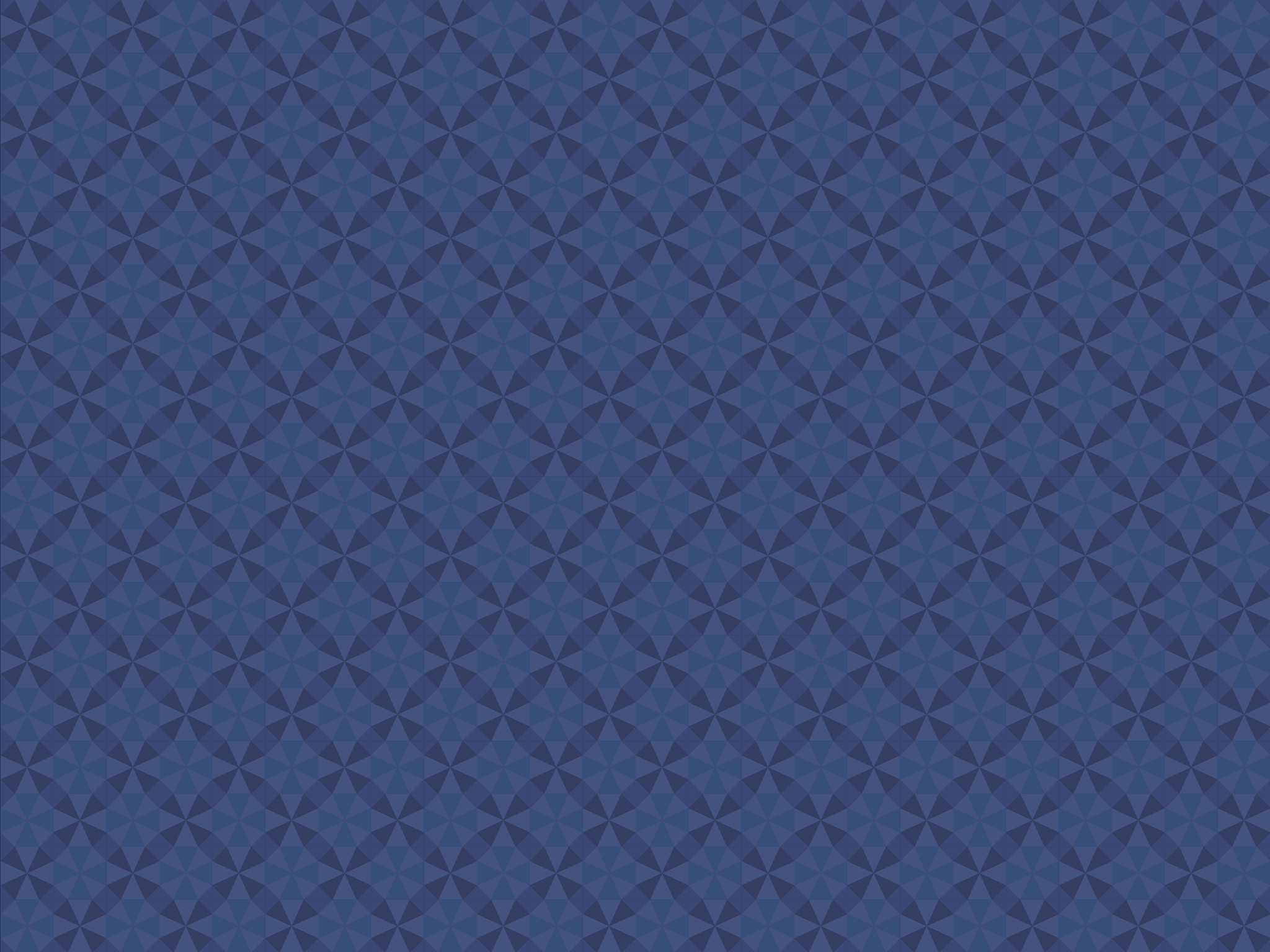
**We Hear the Word**

**Scripture Introduction**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 43: 1-7

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

**Thanks be to God**

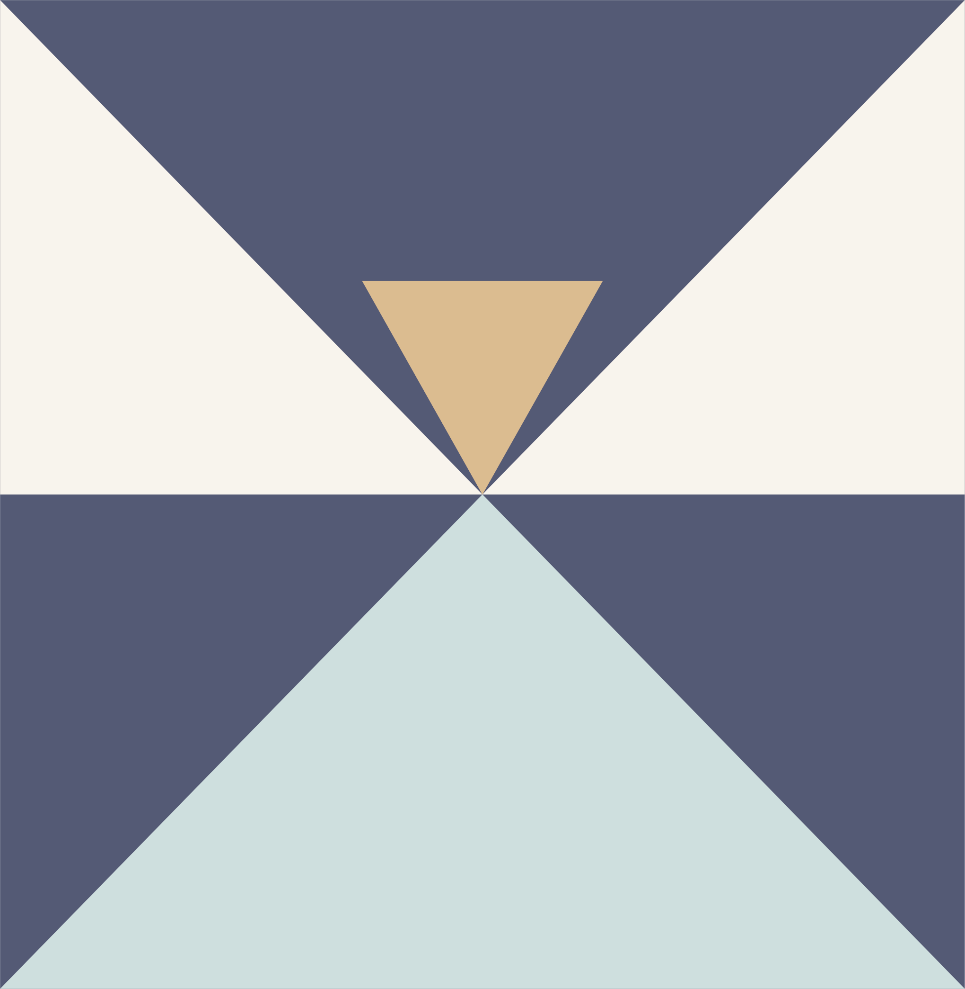
**Scripture:** Luke 1: 26-38

This is the good news of the Gospel

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

**Reflection**

**Hymn** MV 134 Dreaming Mary J Gadeski & P Wright

**We Respond to the Word**

**Offering Invitation**

**Offertory** MV 36 Glory to God! traditional melody, Peru

**Offering Dedication**

Spirited God,

**Your gift of hope comes to us through the Advent of the Christ child. We offer these gifts back to you as signs of hope: hope that nestles into your loving presence, hope that these donations turn the world upside down, hope that trusts in your promise of transformation, hope that opens us to strangers, to neighbours, to enemies, and to friends. Bless us on our journey. Amen.**

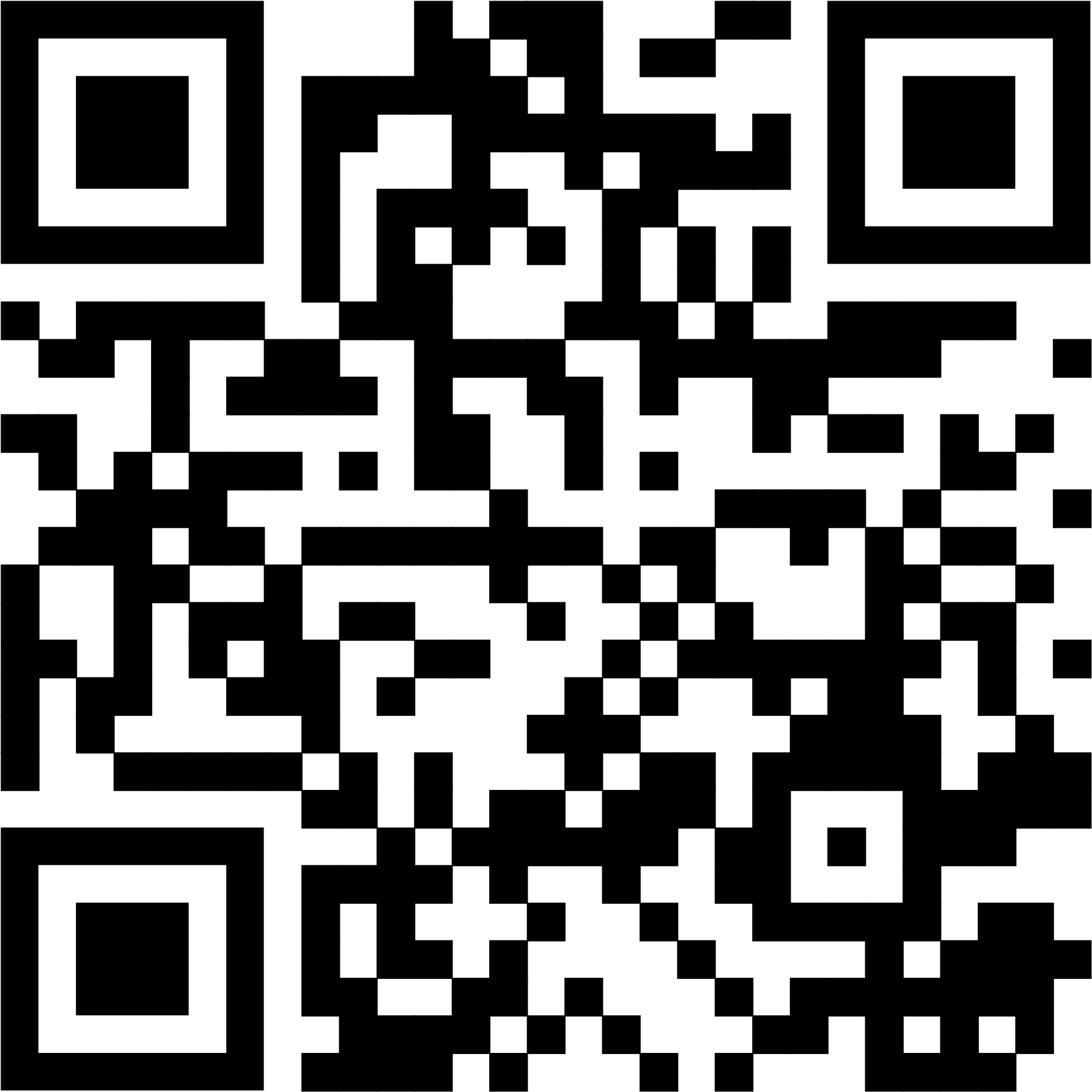
**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn** MV 161 I Have Called You By Your Name D.C. Damon

**Benediction**

**Postlude** Cornet Voluntary William Walond

Reader: Glenda Oldham

Communion Servers: Al Mapes, Dorcas & Kirk Windsor,

& Arlene Hintsa

Organist: Megan Dufrat

Director of Music: Valdine Anderson

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Families: Katie Anderson

Minister: Tricia Gerhard QR Code for Westworth donations