**Westworth United Church**

an Affirming Ministry located on the lands of

Treaty One Territory

and the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation

December 8, 2024

First Sunday of Advent – Peace – We Can’t Go Alone

**We Gather to Worship**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Introit** Prepare ye, the way of the Lord Edward Eiker

**Call to Worship**

In a world that is lonely,

**We will save a seat for you.**

In a world that is anxious,

**We will light candles against the gloom.**

In a world that is weary,

**We will sing songs of joy and truth.**

I am not alone.

**We are not alone.**

For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

**Light the candles! Sing with Joy!**

**We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.**

**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 & Words of Forgiveness**

I have tried to make my own way.

I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith.

I have said a thousand times, “Turn back,” as if I am fine on my own.

But the days are long and I am forgetful.

I need your help. Can you remind me?

**We will remind you of this everlasting truth:**

**You are not alone.**

**Where you go, God goes.**

**You are held in grace.**

**Trust in this good news.**

Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

**Now we need your help.**

**We, too, have tried to make our own way.**

**We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths.**

**We have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if we are fine on our own.**

**But the days are long and we are forgetful.**

**We need your help. Can you remind us?**

I will remind you of one everlasting truth:

You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

**Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe.**

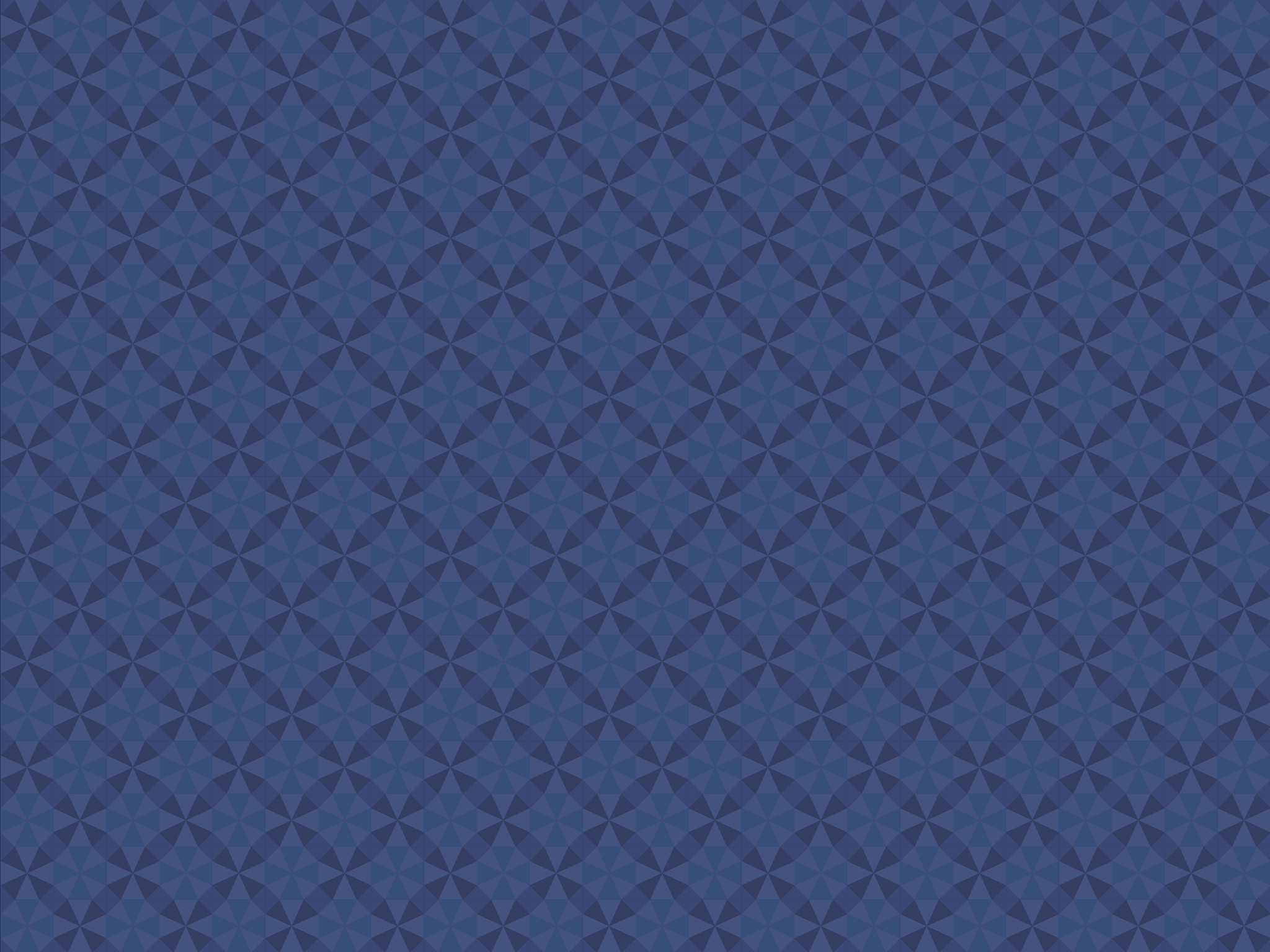
**Amen!**

**Sung Response** MV 33 Jesus Came Bringing us Peace trad. Cameroon

**The Peace of Christ**

**Finding the Star**

**Hymn** VU 4 God of All Places WHITTLESEY

**We Hear the Word**

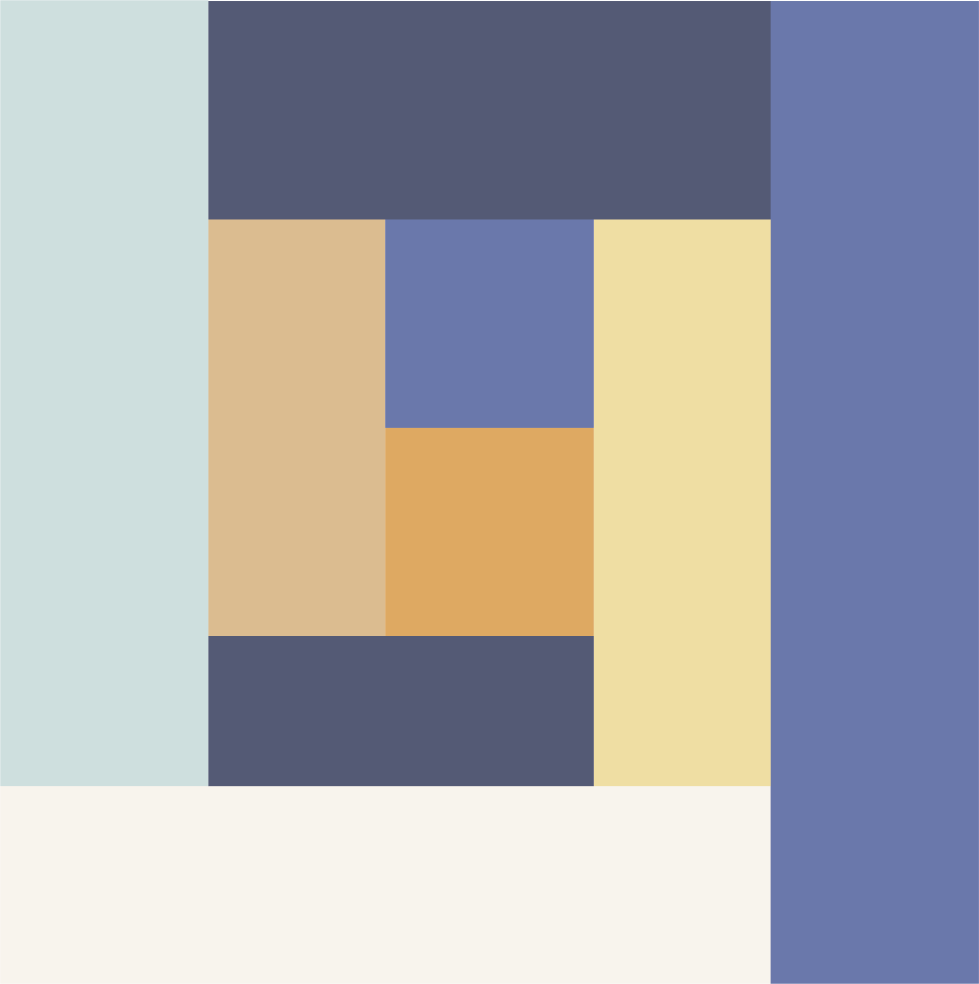
**Scripture Introduction**

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

**Thanks be to God**

**Scripture:** Ruth 1

 This is the good news of the Gospel

**Thanks be to God**

**Anthem** Keep Your LampsV. C. Johnson

**Reflection**

**Hymn** MV 216 Wherever You May Go RENAUD

**We Respond to the Word**

**Offering Invitation**

**Offertory** MV 36 Glory to God! trad. melody, Peru

**Offering Dedication**

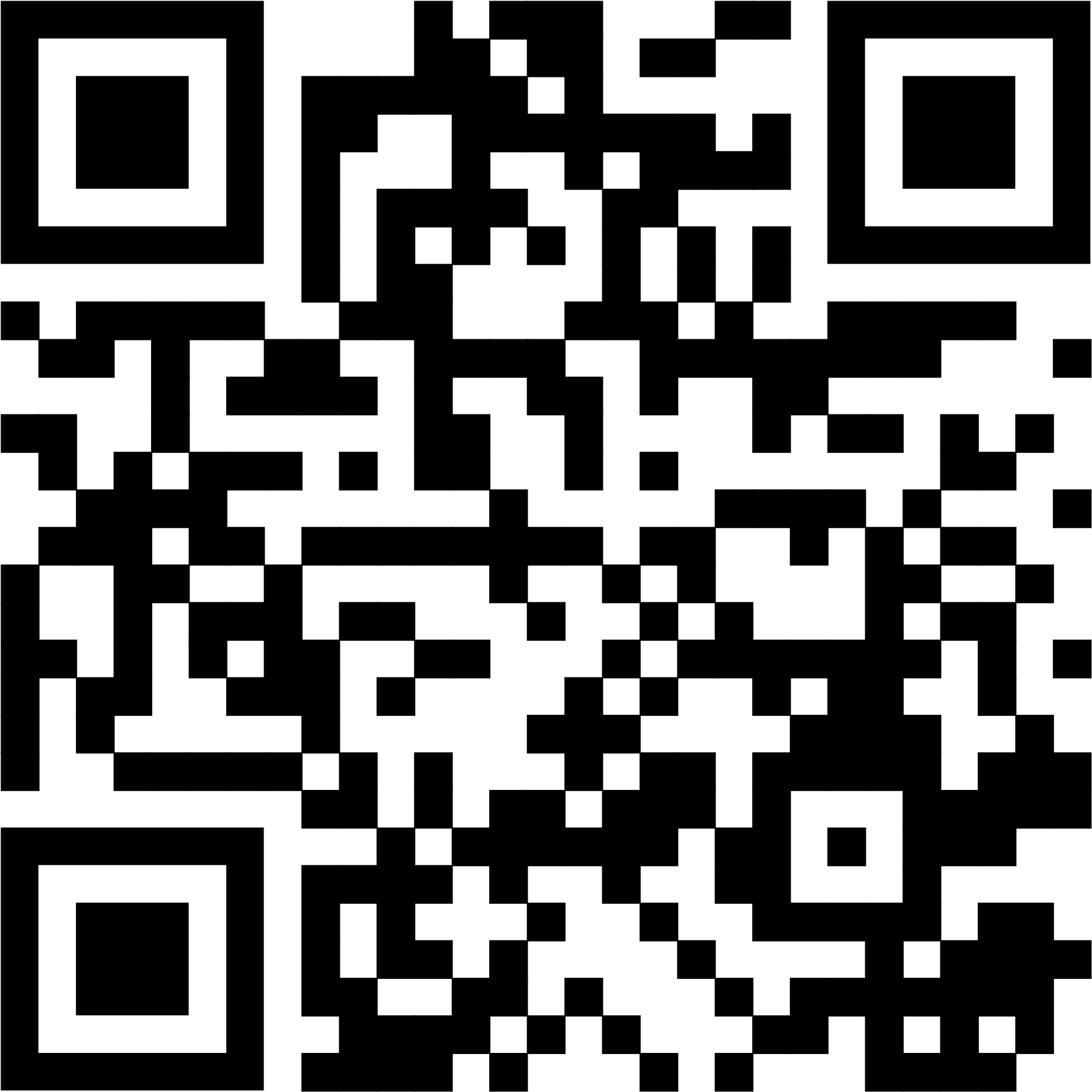
**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn** VU 639 One More Step Along the World SOUTHCOTE

**Blessing & Benediction**

**Hymn** MV 220 Hope Shines as the Solitary Star J.B. Tissandier

**Postlude** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* arr. C. Marohnic

Reader: Earl Gould

Guest Preacher: Ray Cuthbert

Organist: Megan Dufrat

Director of Music: Valdine Anderson

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Families: Katie Anderson

Minister: Tricia Gerhard QR Code for Westworth donations