**Westworth United Church**

an Affirming Ministry located on the lands of

Treaty One Territory

and the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love –

Hope is Worth the Risk

**We Gather to Worship**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

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

**Call to Worship**

In this weary world,

**We sing of joy.**

In this fragile world,

**We lift each other up.**

In this beautiful world,

**We look for God.**

In this tender world,

**We hold onto hope.**

This is the invitation of faith.

So in this time of worship,

May we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

**With hope in our hearts, Amen!**

**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**

Gracious God,

you paint pictures of what could be

**but we declare those visions impossible.**

You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,

**But we spout skepticism and uncertainty.**

You dream of a more just day,

**But we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon.**

Forgive us for losing sight of hope.

**Forgive us for assuming that what we see if all there is.**

Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it.

**Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either.**

**With gratitude we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

**The Peace of Christ**

**Sharing the Story**

**Hymn** VU 7 Hope is a Star MOON BEAMS

**We Hear the Word**

**Scripture Introduction**

**Scripture:** Matthew 1: 18-25

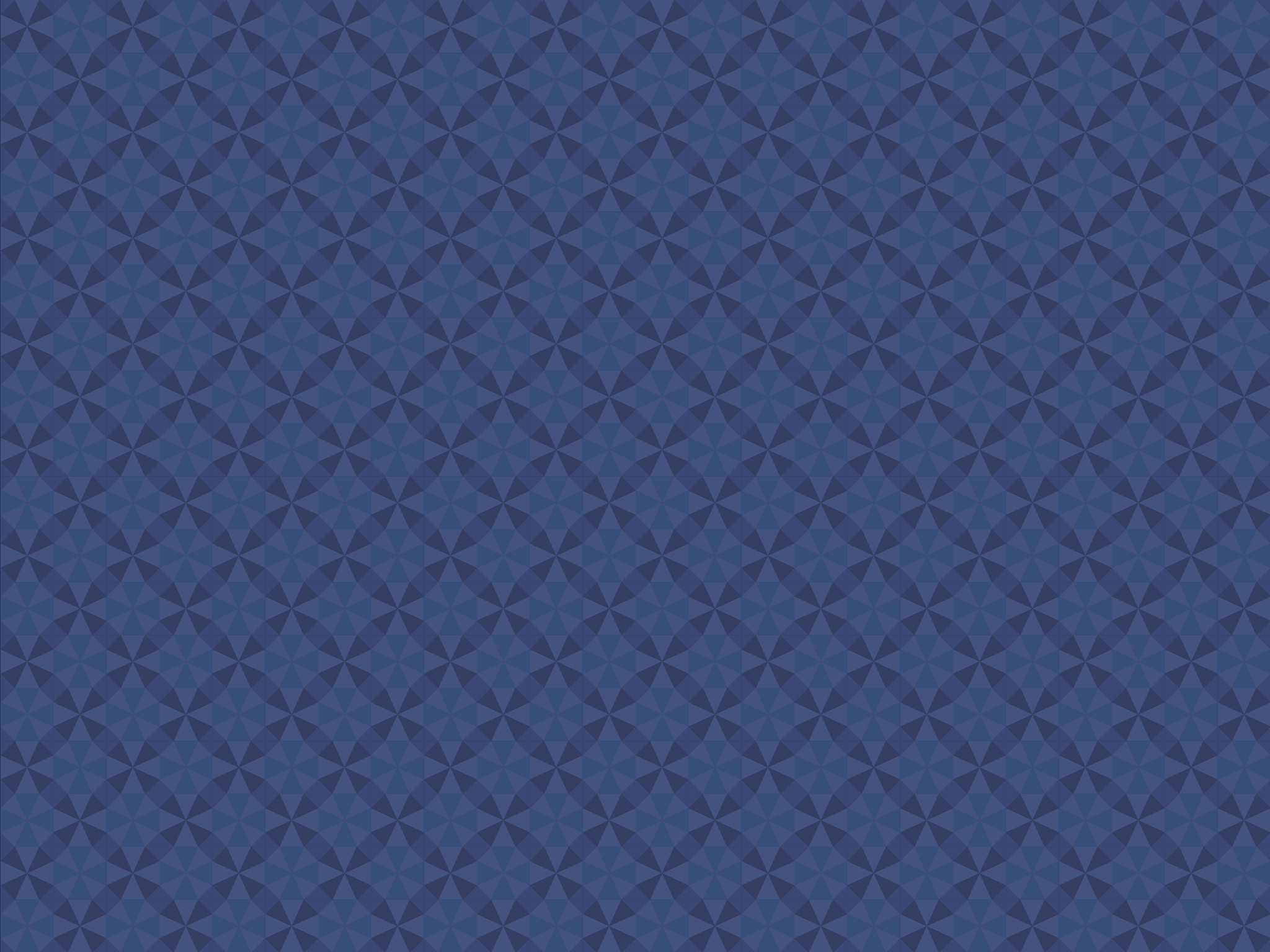
This is the good news of the Gospel

**Thanks be to God**

**Scripture:** Luke 1: 46-55

This is the good news of the Gospel

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Pageant**

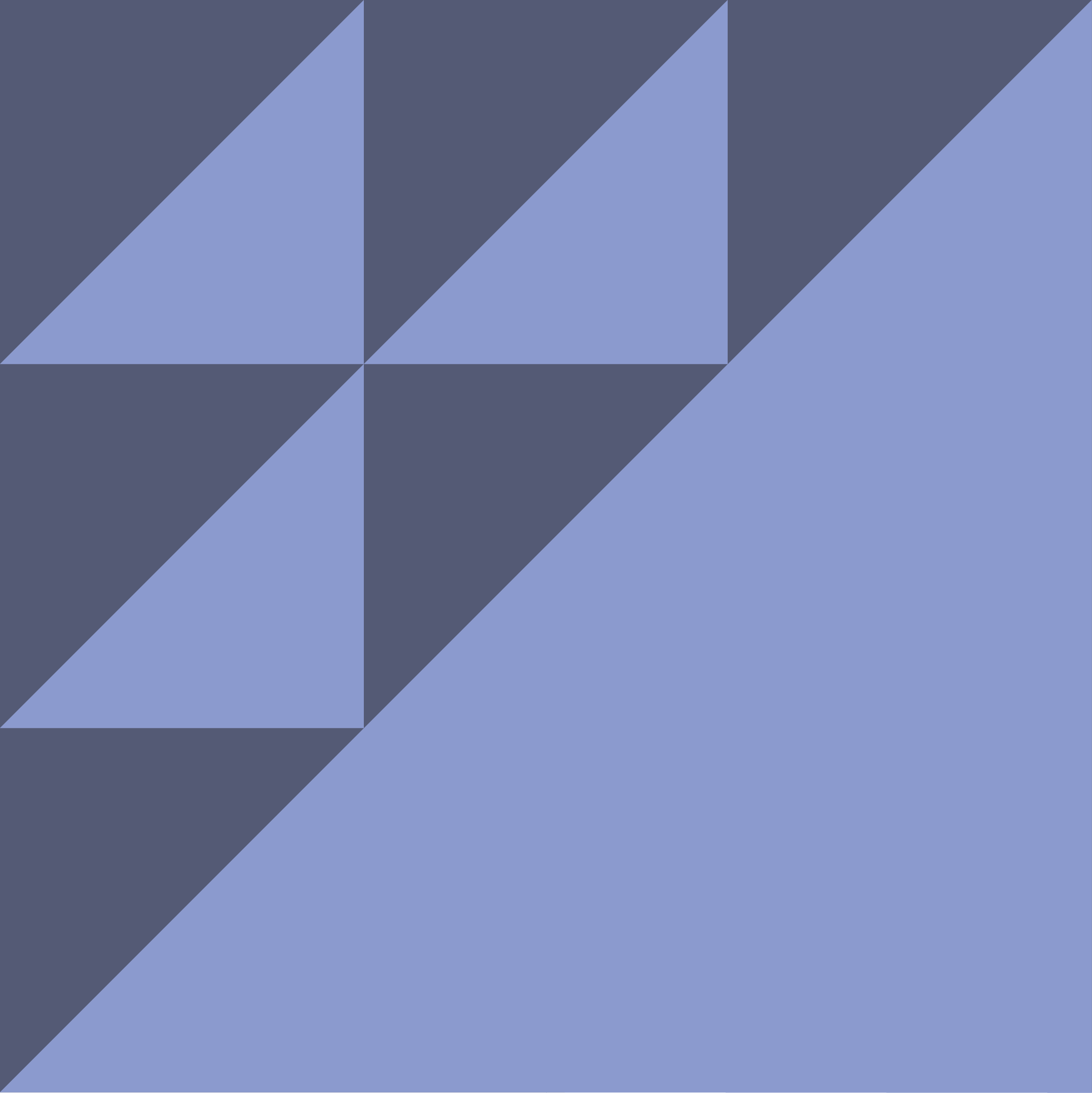
***Scene 1***

Carol: Silent Night (Church School to sing)

***Scene 2***

Hand bells: The First Noel

***Scene 3***



**Carol:** VU 48 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

(v. 1- church school kids;

v. 2 & 3 – congregation joins in)

***Scene 4***

**Carol:** VU 43 Go Tell it on the Mountain

**We Respond to the Word**

**Offering Invitation**

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

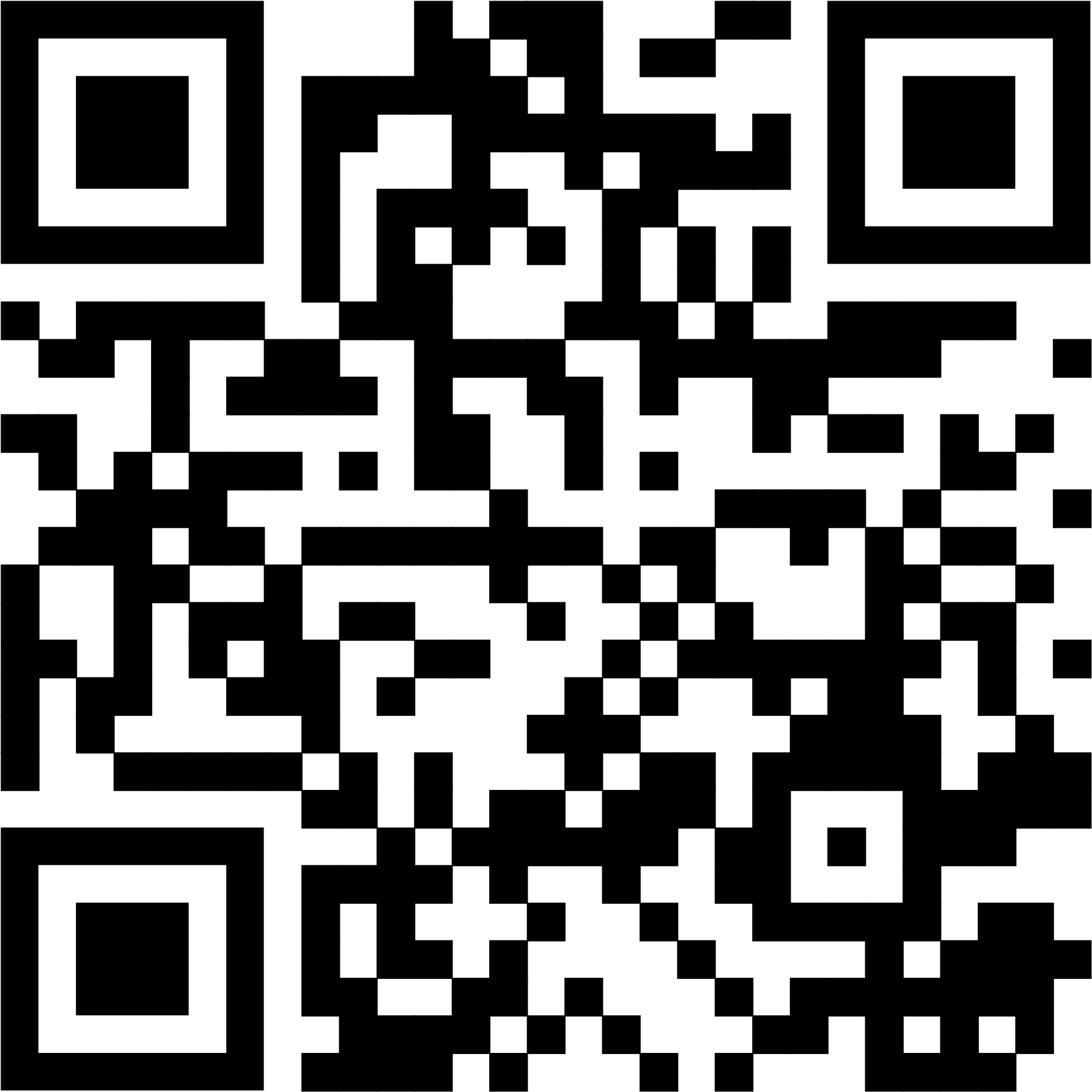
**Offering Dedication**

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

**Hymn** VU 18 There’s a Voice in the Wilderness ASCENSION

**Blessing & Sung Benediction:** MV 220 Love Shines as the Solitary Star C.F. MacLean

**Postlude** *Children, Go Where I Send Thee/Go, Tell it on the Mountain* arr. J. Martin



Reader: Sandy Marles

Pianist: Megan Dufrat

Director of Music: Valdine Anderson

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Families: Katie Anderson

Minister: Tricia Gerhard QR Code for Westworth donations