

Preview for Service of Word and Sacrament, October 18, 2026
Ordinary Time
Liturgical Color: Green
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon, California

Visit the church website: www.wpctiburon.org, 415-383-5272
240 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon, California 94920

This weekly study guide seeks to help members, friends, and visitors prepare for the upcoming Sunday service and teaching.



Opening Blessing

Everywhere we turn, if we look, we can see the face of God. Everywhere we turn. Everywhere we look, we find those who know you as intimately as do we. Let us delight in your ever presence as we learn how to speak of you more widely. Let us worship in joy and wonder.

Community Prayer

God, we love how we have come to know you through the stories sacred to our faith. Sometimes we are so committed to our stories of knowing you that we forget others may know you too. What if we saw in the other a chance to learn of you rather than merely one to convince or judge? What if we saw our common task as discovering you in new and glorious ways and transforming our world for the better? Amen.

Sermon Focus & Title The One We All Know - Talking About God 10 Robert McClellan
Today we explore a wonderful story in which the Apostle Paul connects with the Athenians through a monument to an “unknown” God. Of course, to Paul, that God is the one in fact known, or knowable, to all. We consider how our world would be different if we stepped into that reality not as a tool for or entree to conversion, but one of transformation of our world through appreciation of difference and perspective.

Scripture(s)

Acts 17:22-28

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made

the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor[e] he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God[f] and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

Hymns

In Christ there is no East or West 317

O Look and Wonder 397

Quotes, Questions & Prompts for Reflection, Discussion, and Prayer

“The church would be a very different place, I believe, if we all were to sit through a Sunday morning service with someone from another religious tradition whom we love and respect. We would hear it all very differently.”

- John Philip Newell

1. What is to be gained by speaking of the universality of God?
2. What is the gift of the particular tradition’s understanding of God?
3. How would you articulate Christianity’s particular gift?
4. Where have you learned something of God outside the Christian tradition that resonated with you as true?
5. What is the role of the church or of a religion if not to make a claim as to being the exclusive right way?