

Preview for Service of Word and Sacrament
July 20, 2025
Liturgical Color: Green
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon, California

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



Call to Worship

One: Let us put our trust in God.

Many: For God teaches us God's ways of love and truth.

One: All the paths of God are faithfulness and love.

Many: Let us worship the God of abundant life!

Community Prayer

Loving God, you call us into community, teaching us your ways and blessing us with abundant life. Yet sometimes we choose to follow other paths, listening to the world's call rather than to your call. We can find ourselves quarreling another, letting differences divide us and cherishing our resentments, rather than living together in love. Forgive us when we wander from your grace. Draw us into beloved community with each other and with you. Help us to grow in faithfulness, working together in peace, and always choosing life in you. Amen.

Sermon Focus & Title

Would You Rather

Bethany Nelson

At first glance, the choice offered by Moses to the people seems obvious. Of course I want to choose life over death! However, are we ready to commit to all that is involved in choosing life? The way of life is certainly not an easy path, but luckily, we do not walk it alone.

Scripture Passages

Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore God instructs sinners in the way. God leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble God's way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep God's covenant and God's decrees.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in God's ways, and observing God's commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying God, and holding fast to God, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Hymns

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine, No. 837

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, No.366

Quote for Reflection, Discussion, and Prayer

“Come, teach us, Spirit of our God,
the language of your way,
the lessons that we need to live,
the faith for every day.”

~ Shirley Erena Murray