

Preview for Service of Word and Sacrament
August 10, 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 (adapted from Abigail Carlisle-Wilke)

One: When our steps in life are unsure and the path to follow is unclear,

Many: God guides our way.

One: When life throws us curveballs and things look bleak,

Many: God strengthens us.

One: When we find ourselves surrounded by stuff and want more and more to satisfy us,

Many: God draws our hearts to God.

One: Let us worship together the God of enduring love and faithfulness.

Community Prayer (adapted from Nancy Townley)

Gracious God, it is so easy to focus on gathering things. We gather and store items, gadgets, and even people. But focusing our energies on our collections and providing adequate room for them can make us forget the needs of others - those who have little or nothing, and those for whom life has been a constant struggle. Forgive us. Help us to examine the ways our resources, both of substance and spirit, can be used for healing and hope. Enable us to be in ministry to those in need and to care for this world. Amen.

Sermon Focus & Title

Traveling Light – On the Road Series

Bethany Nelson

As we continue our “On the Road Series,” we consider what we need to have with us on the journey vs. what we want to have with us. Inevitably, we acquire more and more things throughout our life journey, but are they things we really need? And, what if what we really need is not “stuff” at all?

Scripture Passages

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

1 Timothy 6:6-11, 17-19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Hymns

Seek Ye First, No. 175

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending, No. 716

Quote for Reflection, Discussion, and Prayer

“Communities which live simply and without waste help people to discover a whole new way of life, which demands fewer financial resources but more commitment to relationships and to celebration. Happiness is not to be found in a frantic search for material goods, but in simple and loving relationships, lived and celebrated in communities which have renounced that search.

~ Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth* (published in 1991)