



**8:30AM | September 17, 2023**

*You are invited to join the pastors, on the right side of the altar,  
for a time of prayer before we begin worship this morning.*

**PRELUDE**

**Children's Medley**

Hymn Tunes/Hayes

Judi Wilkinson, piano

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Let us know that you worshipped with us today: [www.westernhillsep.org/attendance/](http://www.westernhillsep.org/attendance/)

See our full list of announcements here: [www.westernhillsep.org/happening-now/](http://www.westernhillsep.org/happening-now/)

**\*HYMN**

**Open My Eyes**

UMH #454

**\*PRAYER OF PRESENCE**

Loving God, remind me often today where I find my identity.

May I never forget that I am your beloved child.

May I listen for and hear your faintest whisper,

feel your slightest touch,

respond quickly to your call,

yield to your word of correction,

rejoice in your companionship,

and serve you faithfully all the days of my life.

**Thank you for hearing my prayers and accepting my life.**

**I offer them to you as completely as I can,**

**in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES**

**\*HYMN**

**O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go (v.1-2)**

UMH #480

**\*PSALM 139:1-18**

UMH #854

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

**You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

**Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it altogether.**

You pursue me behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.**

Whither shall I go from your spirit?

**Or whither shall I flee from your presence?**

If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

If I say, let only darkness cover me, and the light about me be night,  
even the darkness is not dark to you, the night is bright as the day;  
for darkness is as light with you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts, you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for you are fearful and wonderful.

**Wonderful are your works!**

You know me very well;

my frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,  
intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;

in your book were written the days that were formed for me,  
every day, before they came into being.

How profound to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

When I awake, I am still with you.

**PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

**\*HYMN**                                      **O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go** (v.3-4)                                      UMH #480

**\*SCRIPTURE READING**                                      **Genesis 1:26-30**  
The Word of God for the people of God!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**MESSAGE**                                      **I Believe: Humankind**                                      Rev. Kim Kinsey

**GIVING TALK AND OFFERING**

Tithes & offerings can be mailed to the church office. (524 Thunderbird Dr.)  
You may also give electronically on our website at [www.westernhillsep.org/donate](http://www.westernhillsep.org/donate)

**\*HYMN**                                      **Many Gifts, One Spirit**                                      UMH #114

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**                                      UMH #883

**We are not alone, we live in God’s world.**  
**We believe in God:**  
    **who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,**  
    **the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**  
**We trust in God.**  
**We are called to be the church:**  
    **to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,**

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.  
We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

**O God, Our Help in Ages Past**  
(St. Anne) William Croft | setting by Michael Burkhardt

Dr. Esequiel Meza, organ

*You are invited to sit and listen to the postlude.*

***LAY READER: Roger Winter***

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