

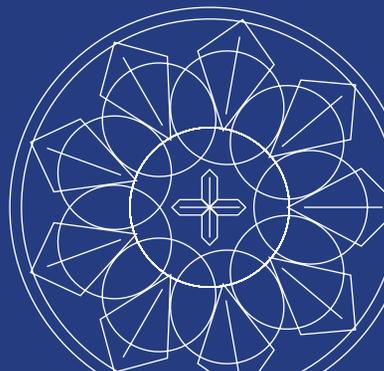
BEAUTIFUL ORTHODOXY BIBLE READING PLAN

Join our community as we read the Word together. Each week you'll find readings here that correspond to our message series. If you'd like a bookmark with six weeks of readings, visit the Info Spot or go to westwoodcc.org/readingplan

NOVEMBER 25–DECEMBER 2

What is heaven?

- Matthew 3:13–17
- Hebrews 1:1–4
- Acts 1:9–11
- Matthew 6:9–15
- John 14:1–14
- Revelation 21:1–4



We give out of a heart of gratitude for all that God has given to us. At Westwood, we want to make it as convenient as possible for you to support our ministries. You can give securely online through our website, use the giving kiosks located by the Info Spots, use our text to give option by texting "westwoodchn" or "westwoodmtk" to 77977 or give during the worship services.

Stock or Mutual Funds:

If you are considering a year-end gift of stock or mutual funds to support the ministries of Westwood, please note that these transactions can take more than 30 days to process. You will find helpful instructions at westwoodcc.org/give

If you have any questions contact our Accounting Manager, Liz Hetherington, at 952.224.7374.

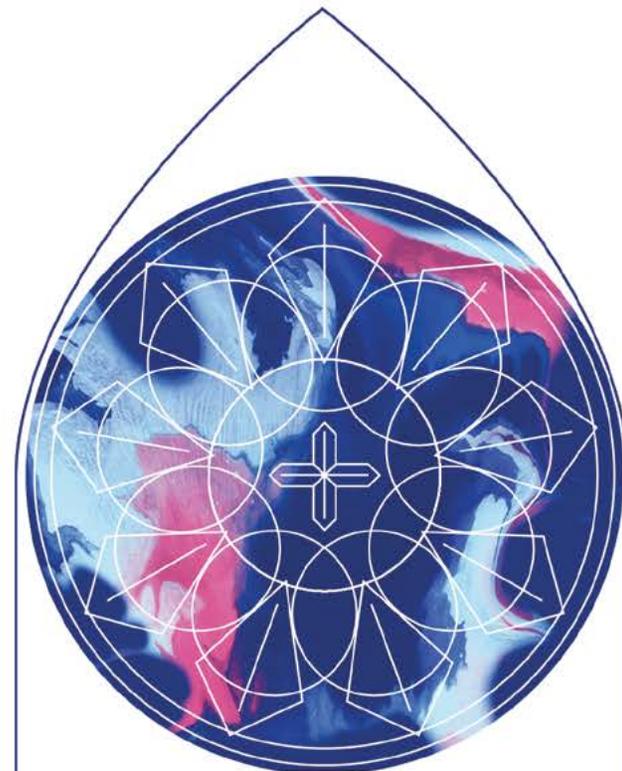
THANK YOU

for partnering with us to reach people with the love of Jesus.



westwoodcc.org

Chanhasen • 952.224.7300
Minnetonka • 952.224.7400



BEAUTIFUL ORTHODOXY

NOVEMBER 26, 2017

WELCOME TO WESTWOOD!

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME HERE? SO GLAD YOU CAME!

Welcome to Westwood! If you are unfamiliar with the flow of our service, here's the scoop: we begin with a few worship songs. The lyrics are found on the big screens. The songs are followed by a couple announcements, a time of prayer and offering. You'll find teaching notes on the right side of the program so you can follow along during the message. We typically conclude our time by singing together.

INFO X
SPOT

Stop by the Info Spot before or after the service. We'd love to meet you, answer any questions you have, and give you some handy information. For kids and students, we offer great programs specially tailored to their ages. Our Westwood Kids desk would be glad to help you. Come, let's give our love to God, who first loved us.

NEED PRAYER? If you'd like prayer for anything on your heart, please come to the front following the service. Prayer Team members would love to pray for you.



NEW MESSAGE SERIES NEXT WEEK

The Bible is filled with stories of God speaking to people through dreams. This Christmas season, we'll unpack some of these powerful accounts and look at how God uses dreams today. You can pick up an Advent Bible reading plan at the Info Spot or online.

CAMPUS EVENTS

For campus-specific events, small groups and other ways to connect, visit westwoodcc.org



HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS GIFT DRIVE

Bless a family in need this Christmas season. Choose a gift tag from the tree and return the unwrapped gift with the tag attached by Sunday, December 3. Gifts will be distributed through the CAP Agency, benefiting local families and Cornerstone, which serves adults and kids impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence and/or human trafficking.

BEAUTIFUL ORTHODOXY

11.26.2017 • ZAC BUSH
WHAT IS HEAVEN?

REVELATION 21:1-7 (ESV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Heaven is marked by the fullness of God's _____ and the fruition of his

_____.

• God's permanent presence _____ death and sorrow. Revelation 21:3-4

• God promises _____ and pure _____. Revelation 21:5-7

The picture of heaven propels us to _____.

Beautiful Orthodoxy #12: What is Heaven?

1. When you think of heaven, what images, pictures, or ideas come to mind? What do you think has influenced your view of heaven?
2. We said, "Heaven is marked by the fullness of God's presence and the fruition of God's promises." Read and discuss Revelation 21:1–4.
3. The word "dwell" is an important word in this passage. To unpack its meaning, read some of the following verses and discuss any similarities:
 - a. Leviticus 26:11–13
 - b. John 1:14
 - c. Revelation 13:6
4. The word dwell in Revelation 21 elevates the idea of God **permanently** dwelling with humanity. To put it another way, God takes up his residence with us. When you think about God **permanently** dwelling with us, what feelings or emotions arise within you?
5. We mentioned the phrase "rollercoaster spirituality" (a lot of times in our faith journey, we want to go on a gradual ascent, but in reality, we move up and down, experiencing high moments and low moments; mountaintop experiences and dark valley seasons). If you were to reflect and think about where you are right now, would you say you're at a high point or low point in your faith journey? What has contributed to your answer?
6. The benefits of God's presence are this: *God's permanent presence destroys death and sorrow*. In God's presence, there will no longer be death or sorrow. We will be reunited with loved ones and will no longer be sorrowful. Scripture is full of other benefits that speak of God's presence. Read the following verses and discuss the benefits of God's presence:
 - a. Psalm 34:18
 - b. Psalm 73:28
 - c. Matthew 28:19–20
 - d. Philippians 4:4–6
7. Read Revelation 21:5–7. We also said God promises restoration and pure elation. Why do you think it's important for God to restore the created world?
8. Revelation 21:6 says "To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment." To understand this verse, it's helpful to read Psalm 42:1–2. What do you think these two verses are trying to convey? (The image here is one of elation, contentment, having all our desires satisfied in Christ.)
9. The application for us is this "the picture of heaven propels us to persevere." In what ways does the picture of heaven help you persevere? What are some difficult moments you have experienced? What difficult moments are you experiencing now that, with the picture of heaven, you can persevere?