



# WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York  
January 14, 2024  
Service of Worship 10:00 am

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Second Sunday After Epiphany



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*(Let the notes of our Prelude be the musical curtain through which we pass as we gather to worship together.  
Let the preparation we make together be prayerful.)*

**Prelude**

Song for the New Year

Rob Roy Peery



**Call to Worship**

Leah Threatte

One: This is the day that the Lord has made!

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: Let us worship God.



**Opening Hymn #69**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky



**Prayer of Confession**

Leah Threatte

One: Let us now confess our sins, trusting in God's boundless mercy and grace.

**All: Merciful God,**

**in your gracious presence**

**we confess our sin and the sin of this world.**

**Although Christ is among us as our peace,**

**we are a people divided against ourselves**

**as we cling to the values of a broken world.**

**The profit and pleasures we pursue**

**lay waste the land and pollute the seas.**

**The fears and jealousies that we harbor**

**set neighbor against neighbor**

**and nation against nation.**

**We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,**

**of intellect and reason,**

**and have turned them into bonds of oppression.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us;**

**heal and forgive us.**

**Set us free to serve you in the world**

**as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

(Time of silence)

## Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Do not fear, says the Lord,  
for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name; you are mine.

God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth!  
By the grace of Jesus Christ,  
we are forgiven!

**All: Amen.**

## Passing The Peace

Leah Threatte

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

## Choir Anthem

“Soon We Will Be Done”

Kyle Pederson

## WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD



### Prayer for Illumination

One: God of All Power,  
Open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts with a spirit of wisdom and revelation.  
Help us to hear your voice, to see your ways, and to receive with joy your truth.  
In Jesus’ name, Amen.



### Scripture

Matthew 8:18-20

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. A scribe then approached and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

## Sermon

“Sheltering in the Love of Christ”

Rashida Tyler

## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

## Prayer Hymn #834

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

sung by Christopher Price

## Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

## Prayers of the People

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

## 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**



**Offering**

Leah Threatte

**Hymn #607**

Doxology

**Charge to the Congregation**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME**



**Closing Hymn #339**

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

**Benediction**

Rashida Tyler

**Postlude**

Menuet Gothique from Suite Gothique (Op. 25) Leon Boellman



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## 2024 CHURCH OFFICERS

### Session

*Leah Threatte, Clerk of Session*

2024: Nancy Holroyd, Susan Schell

2025: Ephraim Adjei, Peter McKee, Linore Southworth

2026: John Bossung, Kate Gallagher, Felicia Kollie-Gambles

### Deacons

*Mary Bullis and Dodie Seagle, Co-moderators*

2024: Ruthanne Brod, Cynthia Dwyer, Mabel McGraw

2025: Kelly Crisfield, Carolyn Smith

2026: Mary Bullis, Marie McClumpha, Dodie Seagle

### Trustees

*John Bossung and Leif Hartmark, Co-chairs*

2024: David Adjei, Leif Hartmark, Laura Moody

2025: John Bossung

2026: Pete Seagle, Dixon Southworth, Joy L. Tallmadge, Peter Wrede

### CHURCH PROGRAM TEAM

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Pastor

[pastor@wpcalbany.org](mailto:pastor@wpcalbany.org)

Cell: 240-281-5005

Christopher Price, Music Director

[music@wpcalbany.org](mailto:music@wpcalbany.org)

Belinda Quaye, Director of Christian Education

[belindaquaye@wpcalbany.org](mailto:belindaquaye@wpcalbany.org)

Emma Mrowka, Organist

[organist@wpcalbany.org](mailto:organist@wpcalbany.org)

### CHURCH SUPPORT TEAM

Lorraine Charboneau, Church Administrator

[office@wpcalbany.org](mailto:office@wpcalbany.org)

Kim Deal, Communications Manager

[communications@wpcalbany.org](mailto:communications@wpcalbany.org)

Forrest Holroyd, Treasurer

[treasurer@wpcalbany.org](mailto:treasurer@wpcalbany.org)

Joy L. Tallmadge, Associate Sexton

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

262 State Street (Mail to: 85 Chestnut Street)

Albany, New York 12210

Office: (518) 436-8544

Email: [office@wpcalbany.org](mailto:office@wpcalbany.org) website: <https://wpcalbany.org>

# 69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

## Here I Am, Lord

*Leader or All*

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

*Refrain*

*All*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.

## 834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me  
2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
near; when my life is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the  
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I

light; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.  
fall; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

This black gospel song, like much hymnody, sprang out of the author's deep personal loss (the death of his wife and newborn son), yet it has brought solace to many. He thought his fingers were playing new music, but they unlocked a deep memory of a tune almost a century old.

TEXT: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938

MUSIC: George N. Allen, 1844; arr. Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938

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PRECIOUS LORD

6.6.9.D

# 607 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple

TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988  
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551  
Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg

OLD HUNDREDTH  
LM

SERVICE MUSIC

here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;

praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.



# 339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en  
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening  
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -  
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had  
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening  
 died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry  
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
 feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought  
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -  
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -  
 tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at  
 thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.  
 last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.