



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
January 28, 2024
Service of Worship 10:00 am

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fourth 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

Galilean Sunrise

John O. Schroeder

Call to Worship

Susan Schell

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 #15

All Creatures of Our God and King



Prayer of Confession

Susan Schell

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

Susan Schell

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die."

Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak--that prophet shall die."

Choral Anthem

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Dale Wood



Scripture

Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching--with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Sermon

“Among Your Own People”

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer Hymn #468

In My Life (verses 1 & 2)

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Prayer Hymn #468

In My Life (verses 3 & 4)

Prayers of the People

Judy Ashburn

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

Susan Schell

Hymn #607

Doxology

Charge to the Congregation

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE ARE SENT IN GOD’S NAME



Closing Hymn #65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

Praise the Lord of Lords

Mark L. Williams



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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

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Joy L. Tallmadge, Associate Sexton

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15 All Creatures of Our God and King

Unison



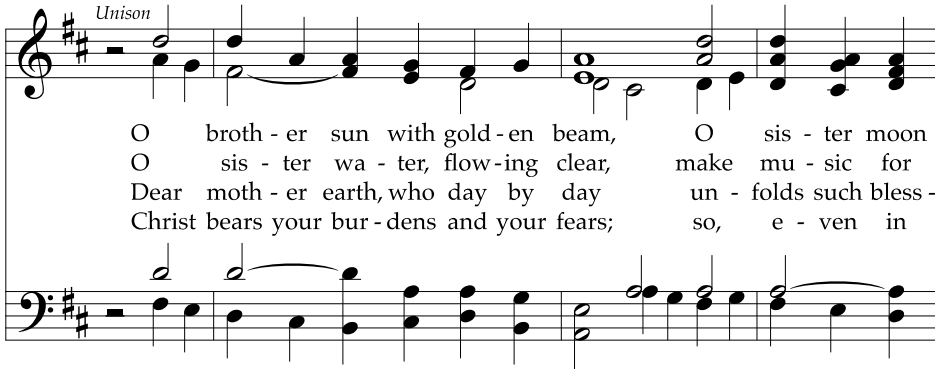
1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
2 O broth-er wind with clouds and rain, you nur-ture gifts
3 O broth-er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad-
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain

Harmony



and with us sing, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
of fruit and grain. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
ows of the night. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
or sor-row grieve, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Unison



O broth-er sun with gold-en beam, O sis-ter moon
O sis-ter wa-ter, flow-ing clear, make mu-sic for
Dear moth-er earth, who day by day un-folds such bless-
Christ bears your bur-dens and your fears; so, e-ven in

Sometimes called "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluias."

TEXT: Francis of Assisi, 1225; trans. composite
MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623, alt.; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
LM with alleluias
(this tune in a higher key, 327)

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

Harmony

with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

468

In My Life

Lord, Be Glorified

1 In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo - ri - fied.
 2 In our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo - ri - fied.
 3 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo - ri - fied.
 4 In your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo - ri - fied.

This praise song can be understood as a sung version of the first part of the answer to the first question of the Westminster Catechism: that a human being's "chief end is to glorify God." Numerous related Scriptures can be cited, including 1 Corinthians 6:20 and 10:31.

TEXT and MUSIC: Bob Kilpatrick, 1978
 Text and Music © 1978, 1986 Prism Tree Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corp.

LORD, BE GLORIFIED
 4.4.4.4.6

PRAYER

In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.
 In our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.
 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.
 In your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.

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 HUNDRETH
LM

SERVICE MUSIC

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

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

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.