



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
February 12, 2023
Service of Worship 10:00 am

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sixth 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

The Seasons, "February: The Carnival"

Peter Tchaikovsky



Call to Worship

Larry Volk

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 #1

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"



Prayer of Confession

Larry Volk

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

Larry Volk

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

Larry Volk

Words of Welcome

Leah Threatte

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Choral Anthem

"Blessed"

Dave Parker & Kathy Walden



Prayer for Illumination

Larry Volk

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

Phillipians 3:7-16 read by Shani E. McIlwain

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us, then, who are mature think this way, and if you think differently about anything, this, too, God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

Sermon

"Pressed for God"

Shani E. McIlwain

Piano Meditation

Carnival Scenes from Vienna, "Romance"

Robert Schumann

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

Prayer Hymn #729

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Prayers of the People

Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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

Larry Volk

Offering Hymn #710

We Lift Our Voices

Moment for Mission

Heart of Hope

Leah Threatte

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #741

Guide My Feet

Charge and Benediction

Shani E. McIlwain

Postlude

Carnival Scenes from Vienna "Intermezzo"

Robert Schumann



We welcome Shani McIlwain to our (virtual) pulpit this morning. Shani is the Moderator of the National Capital Presbytery, a Ruling Elder at Faith Presbyterian Church (Washington, DC), serving on CPM, Spiritual Formation, Co-Chair for the Young Adult Volunteer Board and Co-Moderator of Black Presbyterians United. She serves on the NEXT Church strategy team as a group facilitator and an executive coach, leading individuals and groups in faithful and transparent conversations about dismantling racism and white supremacy.

Shani is the 2018 Indie Author Legacy Awards™ Distinction of Excellence Honoree, a prolific global writer, and a five-time bestselling author. Her works include the inspirational devotionals *Sharing My Mess: 90 Days of Prayer and Spiritual Intimacy with God* and *It's Time To Make a Change: 30 Days to Renew Your Heart, Mind, and Soul*. Her newest book is *Awkward Silence: A Guide for White Ministry Leaders on Confronting Anti-Racism and Microaggressions*.

Anthem Lyrics

BLESSED - BY DAVE PARKER & KATHY WALDEN

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are the humble, for theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blessed are they that mourn, they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Salt of the earth, let your light shine! (repeated)
Blest be they who hunger, for righteousness, for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for mercy they will receive.
Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called.
They shall be called the children of God.
Salt of the earth, let your light shine! (repeated)
Blessed are the seekers, the lovers, the sowers of truth.
Blessed are the faithful, the light givers, singers of prayer.
Blessed are the little ones, lead them unto me.
For of such is heaven filled, with children of our God.
Salt of the earth, let your light shine! (repeated)

We welcome Eugene Sit as this week's accompanist. Thank you Eugene!

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2023 CHURCH OFFICERS

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Peter McKee, Hannah Ohemaa-Takyi, Susan Schell, Linore Southworth

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Pete Seagle, Joy L. Tallmadge, Kathy Walter, Peter Wrede

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THE TRIUNE GOD

1 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Descant

4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

ho - ly,
 Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Much of the imagery of this hymn comes from Revelation 4:2–11, which its author, an Anglican bishop, knew as a reading appointed for Trinity Sunday. The tune, written specifically for this text, reinforces the Trinitarian theme by strong dependence on the D-major triad.

TEXT: Reginald Heber, 1827, alt.;

Korean trans. The Christian Literature Society of Korea; Spanish trans. Juan B. Cabrera

MUSIC: John Bacchus Dykes, 1861; desc. David McKinley Williams, 1948

Korean Trans. The Christian Literature Society of Korea

Music Desc. © 1948, ren. H. W. Gray Co., Inc. (a div. of Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.)

NICAEA
 11.12.12.10

THE TRIUNE GOD

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

SPANISH

- 1 ¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! Señor omnipotente,
siempre el labio mío loores te dará.
¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! Te adoro reverente,
Dios en tres personas, bendita Trinidad.
- 2 ¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! La inmensa muchedumbre
de ángeles que cumplen tu santa voluntad,
ante ti se postra, bañada de tu lumbré,
ante ti que has sido, que eres y serás.
- 3 ¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! Por más que estés velado
e imposible sea tu gloria contemplar,
santo tú eres sólo y nada hay a tu lado,
en poder perfecto, pureza y caridad.
- 4 ¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! La gloria de tu nombre
vemos en tus obras, en cielo, tierra y mar.
¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! La humanidad te adore,
Dios en tres personas, bendita Trinidad.

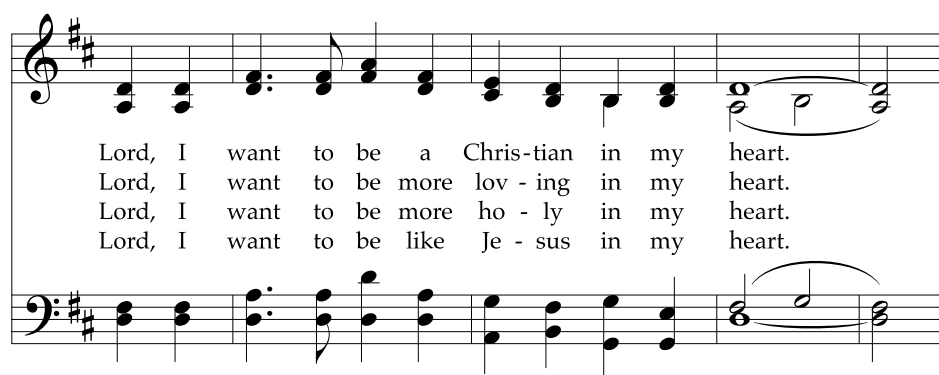
KOREAN

- 1 거룩거룩거룩 전능하신 주여
이른아침우리주를 찬송합니다
거룩거룩거룩 자비하신 주여
성삼위일체 우리주로다
- 2 거룩거룩거룩 주의보좌 앞에
모든성도 금면류관 벗어드리네
천군천사 모두주께 굴복하니
영원히 위에 계신 주로다
- 3 거룩거룩거룩 주의 빛난 영광
모든죄인 눈어두워 보지못하네
거룩하신 이가 주님밖에 뉘랴
권능과사랑 온전하셔라
- 4 거룩거룩거룩 전능하신 주여
천지만물 주의이름 찬송합니다
거룩거룩거룩 자비하신 주여
성삼위일체 우리주로다

729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in my heart, in my heart;
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in my heart, in my heart;
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in my heart, in my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in my heart.



In my heart, in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in my heart.

Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.

We Lift Our Voices

710

We Are an Offering

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our
 lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our
 voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our
 lives; they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.
 All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we
 give to you, we give to you. We lift our
 voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
 we are an of-fer-ing; we are an of-fer-ing.

This praise and worship song can best be understood as reflecting on and expanding 1 Chronicles 29:14b: "For all things come of you, [O Lord,] and of your own have we given you." There are also echoes of Paul's appeal for Christians to be living sacrifices (Romans 12:1).

Guide My Feet

741

1 Guide my feet while I run this race;

(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race;

(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race, for I

don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Hold my hand ... | 5 Search my heart ... |
| 3 Stand by me ... | 6 Guide my feet ... |
| 4 I'm your child ... | |

This African American spiritual is based on the imagery of "the race that is set before us" in Hebrews 12:1–2. Its call-and-response structure allows for the improvisation and addition of stanzas related to an athletic metaphor that is as vivid today as it was centuries ago.