



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
May 14, 2023 ~ The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to Westminster! We're glad you're here.

- **If you're visiting us this morning, we would love to meet you and greet you!** We invite you to fill out the Welcome Card in the pew and put it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher in the back.
- **After worship, please join us downstairs as we continue our fellowship at coffee hour.** We gather in the hall located directly under our sanctuary. Stairs are located on either side of the State Street entrance to our building.



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

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

Prelude

"God, Give Us Christian Homes"

B.B. McKinney
Arr. Cindy Berry



Call to Worship

Sue Schell

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!
Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Luke 24:34



Opening Hymn #12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Call to Confession

Sue Schell

The Lord says: Come.
Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Revelation 22:17

Prayer of Confession

Sue Schell

**Almighty God,
in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry,
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,
and indifferent to calls for peace;
we despise the weak,
and abuse the earth you made.**

**Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power
to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Acts 2:17, 21

Hear the good news of God's promise:
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

Passing The Peace

Sue Schell

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Choral Anthem

Like a Mother with Her Children

Allison Gilliam
arr. by David Schwoebel

Like a Mother with her children You will comfort us each day,
giving guidance on our journey, as we seek to find our way.
When we walk through fiery trials, You will help us take a stand;
when we pass through troubled waters, You hold out Your tender hand.

In Your image You have made us, calling each of us by name,
giving strength for ev'ry challenge as our gifts we fully claim.
We can hear You gently saying, "Do not worry, do not fear;
for I'll always go beside you; ev'ry moment I am near."

Like a river glorious in God's perfect peace, over all victorious in its bright increase;
Perfect, yet it floweth fuller ev'ry day; Perfect, yet it growth deeper all the way.

Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand, never foe can follow, never traitor stand;
Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care, not a blast of hurry though the spirit there.
Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blessed; Finding, as He promised, perfect peace and rest.



Prayer for Illumination

Living God, with joy we celebrate
the presence of your risen Word.
Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit
so that we may proclaim the good news
of eternal and abundant life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Scripture

John 14:15-21

[Jesus said,] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."



Scripture

Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him--though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Sermon

"God Known and Unknown"

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Musical Meditation

"Take the Name of Jesus with You"

W. Howard Doane
Arr. Cindy Berry

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayer Hymn #288

Spirit of the Living God



Prayers of the People

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

Sue Schell

Offering Hymn #740

Lead Me, Guide Me

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #250

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

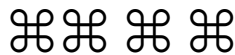
Charge and Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

William J. Kirkpatrick
Arr. Cindy Berry



We welcome Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher as this week's accompanist. Thank you Darhon!

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Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

Spirit of the Living God 288

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

KOREAN

살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
 빛으시고 채우소서
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서

SPANISH

Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
Tóname, cámbiame, lléname, úsame.
Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.

Both the words and the music of this prayer-song were written by a Presbyterian minister from Tarboro, North Carolina. The words were initially inspired by Jeremiah 18:1-6; a friend helped him set them to music during an evangelistic meeting in Orlando, Florida, where the song was first sung.

TEXT: Daniel Iverson, 1926; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee; Spanish trans. anon.

MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

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LIVING GOD

Irregular

740 Lead Me, Guide Me

Capo 1: (D) (A7) (Em)
 Refrain Eb Bb7 Fm

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you

lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each

day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need your strength and power to help me

o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the dark-ness your

face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *to Refrain*

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This African American gospel hymn can well be understood as an updated adaptation of Psalm 5:8, with the “enemies” of the psalm treated as the pressures and temptations of daily life. As with the psalms, the “I” here is understood to express a shared communal experience.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) F (Em) Gm



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) C7 (D) F



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
 F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
 Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."

Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.