



# WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York  
May 21, 2023 ~ The Seventh 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** Fantasy on "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" Allan Mahnke (b. 1944)



#### **Call to Worship**

Judy Hartley

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

*Luke 24:34*

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



#### **Opening Hymn #268**

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

#### **Call to Confession**

Judy Hartley

The Lord says: Come.

*Revelation 22:17*

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

#### **Prayer of Confession**

Judy Hartley

**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**

Judy Hartley

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**Choral Anthem**

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

Jonathan Reid

May the mind of Christ, my Savior, live in me from day to day, by His love and pow'r, controlling all I do and say.  
May the Word of Christ dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour, so that all may see I triumph only through His pow'r.  
May the peace of Christ, my Savior, rule my life in ev'rything, that I may be calm to comfort, sick and sorrowing.  
May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea, Him exalting, self abasing; This is victory.  
May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe, looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.  
May His beauty rest upon me as I seek the lost to win, and may they forget the channel, seeing only Him.



**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**

*Acts 1:1-11*

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."



### Scripture

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

### Sermon

"Looking Up to Jesus"

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Prayer Hymn #828

"More Love to Thee, O Christ"

### Gathering Celebrations and Concerns



Prayers from State Street

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

Prayers of the People

Gina Amoako

### 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**

Judy Hartley

**Offering Hymn #750**

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

**Moment for Mission**

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



**Closing Hymn #772**

Live Into Hope

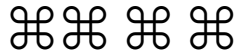
**Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**Postlude**

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

Bernard Reichel (1901 - 1992)



**We welcome Margaret Randall as this week's accompanist. Thank you Margaret!**

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## **2023 CHURCH OFFICERS**

### **Session**

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Ephraim Adjei, John Bossung, Nancy Holroyd, Felicia Kollie-Gambles,  
Peter McKee, Hannah Ohemaa-Takyi, Susan Schell, Linore Southworth

### **Deacons**

Mary Bullis and Dodie Seagle, Co-moderators  
Ruthanne Brod, Kelly Crisfield, Cynthia Dwyer,  
Mabel McGraw, Elizabeth McMillan, Carolyn Smith

### **Trustees**

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David Adjei, Marie McClumpha, Laura Moody, David Norman,  
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# Crown Him with Many Crowns 268

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways  
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:  
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 but down-ward bends his burn-ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.  
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

# 828 More Love to Thee, O Christ

1 More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!  
 2 Once earth - ly joy I craved, sought peace and rest.  
 3 Then shall my lat - est breath whis - per thy praise;

Hear thou the prayer I make on bend - ed knee.  
 Now thee a - lone I seek; give what is best.  
 this be the part - ing cry my heart shall raise.

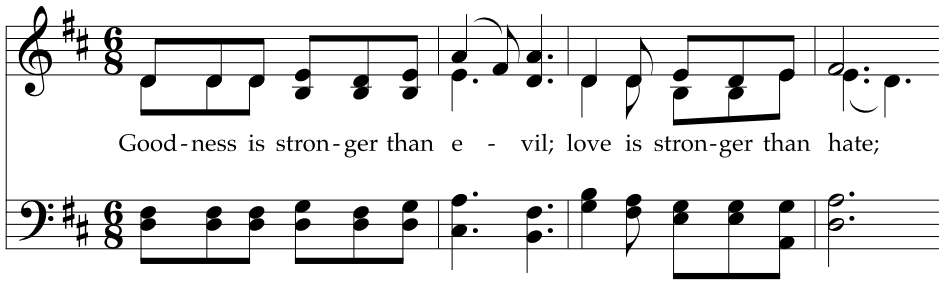
This is my ear - nest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee;  
 This all my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;  
 This still its prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;

more love to thee, more love to thee!


Perhaps because this prayer-poem by the wife of a leading 19th-century Presbyterian minister grew out of her own physical and emotional suffering, it has continued to speak to many people in similar distress. It is set here to the tune created for its first printing in a hymnal.



# Goodness Is Stronger than Evil 750



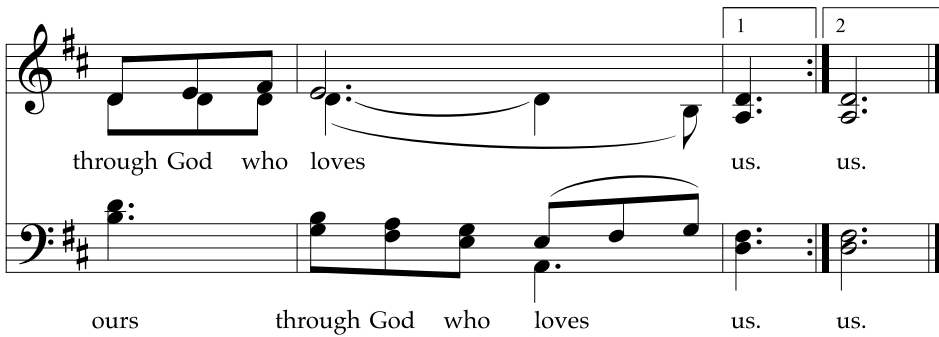
Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;



light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death.



Vic - tory is ours; vic - tory is ours  
Oh, vic - tory is ours; vic - tory is



through God who loves us. us.  
ours through God who loves us. us. us.

Recognizing that this text arose from the years of apartheid in South Africa adds depth and resonance to its already confident language. Yet these words can also be read as a summary of Christ's death and resurrection, the true basis of our hope that good will triumph over evil.

TEXT: Desmond Tutu, c. 1994

MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1996

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GOODNESS IS STRONGER

8.6.7.6.4.4.5

# 772 Live into Hope

1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -  
 2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight  
 3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to  
 4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the  
 and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of  
 speak, the right to be, the right to have one's  
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!  
 pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.  
 dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.  
 full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

This text on Luke 4:16–20, the author's first, was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976 because the team planning worship could not find a suitable hymn on that passage. She wrote the words with this vigorous 18th-century tune in mind.