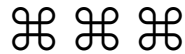




WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
May 28, 2023 ~ Pentecost
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

"We Pray Now to the Holy Spirit"

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)



Call to Worship

David Adjei

The Spirit of God renews the earth.
Bless the name of the Lord!

Ps. 104:30, 35



Opening Hymn 289

On Pentecost They Gathered

Call to Confession

David Adjei

Jesus says: Let anyone who is thirsty come to me.
Out of the believer's heart
shall flow rivers of living water.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

John 7:37-38



Prayer of Confession (unison)

David Adjei

**Almighty God,
you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples
creating bold tongues, open ears,
and a new community of faith.
We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us.
We do not listen for your word of grace,
speak the good news of your love,
or live as a people made one in Christ.
Have mercy on us, O God.
Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit,
and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people,
doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Time of silence)

Assurance and Pardon

David Adjei

Through Christ, God has poured out
the Holy Spirit upon us
for the forgiveness of sins.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

John 20:22–23

Passing the Peace

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choral Anthem

Send Down the Fire

Mark Hayes

Send down the fire of your justice, send down the rains of your love; come, send down the Spirit, breathe life in your people, and we shall be people of God.
Call us to be your compassion, teach us the song of your love; give us hearts that sing, give us deeds that ring, make us ring with the song of your love.
Send down the fire of your justice, etc.
Call us to learn of your mercy, teach us the way of your peace; give us hearts that feel, give us hands that heal, make us walk in the way of your peace.
Call us to answer oppression, teach us the fire of your truth; give us righteous souls, 'til your justice rolls, make us burn with the fire of your truth.
Send down the fire of your justice, etc.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

God of power and grace,
fill us with the wisdom of your word
and the understanding of your Spirit
so that we may be your church:
a people with dreams and visions
at work in all the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Scripture Lesson

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs--in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Sermon

"Changed, Called, Gifted, Equipped and Sent"

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayer Hymn #285

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



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

David Adjei

SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING

Leader: We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ,
a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

The great ends of the Church are

the proclamation of the gospel

for the salvation of humankind;

the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship

of the children of God;

the maintenance of divine worship;

the preservation of the truth;

the promotion of social righteousness;

and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship.

Our discipleship is a manifestation

Book of Order, F-1.0304

of the new life we enter through baptism.
Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment,
an offering and a responsibility.

Members and Friends of Westminster Presbyterian Church,
the grace bestowed on you in baptism
is sufficient for your calling
because it is God's grace.
By God's grace we are saved,
and enabled to grow in the faith
and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ.
God has called you to particular service.
Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Who is your Lord and Savior? **Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?
I will, with God's help.

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus,
to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world? **I do.**

Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love,
relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit? **I will, with God's help.**

Do you, members of Westminster Presbyterian Church,
confirm the call of God to this congregation, all of its members and all of its friends,
to the specific and varied ministries we have named, in the service of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Will you support and encourage each other in this ministry? **We will.**

Let us pray:
Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us;
and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives,
empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling.
We thank you for leading each of us to this time and place.
Establish us in your truth,
and guide us by your Holy Spirit,
that in your service we may grow in faith, hope, and love,
and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and forever.

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #747

The Lord Now Send Us Forth (*Sung 3 times, from slow to fast*)

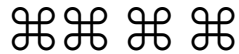
Charge and Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

"Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid"

Ludwig Lenel (1914-2002)



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

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- Get weekly news email messages by providing a current email address to the church office at office@wpcalbany.org or calling (518) 436-8544
- For more about Westminster's online communications, please contact us: communications@wpcalbany.org

2023 CHURCH OFFICERS

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

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

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289 On Pentecost They Gathered

1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,
 2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed
 3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,
 4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,
 a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples, to wor - ship, sing, and pray.
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as Christ the Lord they praised.
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,
 What u - ni - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.
 O give us ears to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,
 and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.
 so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

This narrative and interpretive text was written to fill what the author perceived as an unfortunate gap in available hymns concerning the Holy Spirit in general and Pentecost in particular. The setting of a 17th-century German tune is from Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah*.

285 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Capo 3: (G/A) (D) (A) (D/F#) (E7)
 B^b/C F C F/A G7

1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text on the Holy Spirit was written to fit the pre-existing tune. The three stanzas cluster around various themes developed through a series of images and grounded in the refrain: how the Spirit comes, to whom the Spirit comes, and for what purposes the Spirit comes.

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1982, alt.
 MUSIC: Peter Cutts, 1969
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company
 Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

BRIDEGROOM
 8.7.8.7.6

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(A) (Em) (B)
 C Gm D

flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the

(Em) (D) (G) (A/G) (F#m) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
 Gm F B^b C/B^b Am Dm Gm C7 F

new flame's ea - ger might:
 midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare:

747 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

Enviado soy de Dios

Em B Em B Em



The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to
En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - taes - tá pa -

Am B7 Em



make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.
ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.

Am D G C



The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain to
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar un

Am B7 Em



do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name; that
mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor; me

Am D G C



falls to you and me and all who are made free. Help
ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad. A -

Am B7 Em



us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.
yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.

This text by a Cuban Pentecostal pastor is plural here in English and singular in the original Spanish version; singing both languages helps to show how the call to action in the world is both corporate and individual. The minor tune suggests the resolve needed to do God's work.