



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
September 24, 2023
Service of Worship 10:00 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT WORSHIP
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



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

Prelude Prelude on "Rhosymedre" Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Call to Worship (Psalm 95:1-2) John Bossung

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord
and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

**All: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,
singing joyful songs of praise.**



Opening Hymn #309 Come, Great God of All the Ages



Prayer of Confession John Bossung

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

John Bossung

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Amen.

Passing The Peace

John Bossung

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choral Anthem

“Bless All Who Trust in God”

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

John Bossung

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 Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said,] "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Sermon

"No Comparison"

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #833

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go, verses 1 & 2

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayer Hymn #833

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go, verses 3 & 4

Prayers of the People

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

John Bossung

Hymn #607

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Charge to the Congregation

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #757

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

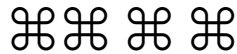
Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

“Westminster Abbey”

Harold Rutz (b. 1930)



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

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2023 CHURCH OFFICERS

Session

Leah Threatte, Clerk of Session
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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

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David Adjei, Marie McClumpha, Laura Moody, David Norman,
Pete Seagle, Joy L. Tallmadge, Kathy Walter, Peter Wrede

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309 Come, Great God of All the Ages

1 Come, great God of all the a - ges; make your earth - ly
 2 Come, Christ Je - sus, flesh and spir - it, sure foun - da - tion,
 3 Come, great Spir - it, in and with us, tune our ears to
 4 Come, O come, in cel - e - bra - tion, house - hold of the

mis - sion known; speak through ev - ery deed and per - son;
 cor - ner - stone; help us form the church e - ter - nal;
 hear your call; through the mov - ing of your pres - ence,
 one true God; in com - mit - ment and re - joic - ing

let your way and will be shown. Guide the church to true com -
 may your vi - sion be our own. Send a mes - sage to each
 let re - deem - ing love re - call min - is - try in ded - i -
 let us go where Christ has trod; as we act in faith and

mit - ment; give di - rec - tion now, we ask; fit us for the
 fol - lower; lead all peo - ple to your way; urge us to strong
 ca - tion, love em - bod - ied in our deeds; chal - lenge us to
 rev - erence, let us, Lord, the fu - ture see; place us in the

This text was written in 1987 for the capital cornerstone campaign of the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. It is set here to a mid-20th-century tune created in wartime England to replace a Haydn tune tainted by Nazi associations.

TEXT: Mary Jackson Cathey, 1987

MUSIC: Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941

Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company

ABBOT'S LEIGH

8.7.8.7.D

THE CHURCH

work of build-ing; ded - i - cate us to the task.
faith and ac - tion as we build the church to - day.
do your bid - ding, see your pur - pose, fill all needs.
church tri - um - phant, now and for e - ter - ni - ty.

The musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). It features a vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a piano accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

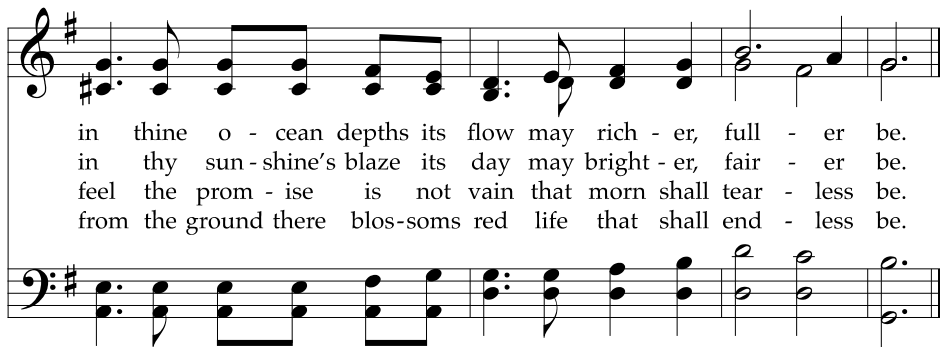
O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833



1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my
2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my
3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not
4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not



wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
flick - ering torch to thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that
close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and



in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.

TEXT: George Matheson, 1881, alt.
MUSIC: Albert Lister Peace, 1884, alt.

ST. MARGARET
8.8.8.8.6

607 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people

TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551
Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

SERVICE MUSIC

here below; praise Holy Spirit ever more;

praise Tri-une God, whom we adore. Amen.

757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
 spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
 was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
 calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.