



# WESTMINSTER

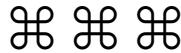
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Presbyterian Church

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Albany, New York  
January 8, 2023  
Service of Worship 10:00 am

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Baptism of the Lord



**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**

“By the Fireside”

Peter I. Tchaikovsky

**Call to Worship**

Susan Schell

One: Do not fear, for the Lord has spoken:

**All: I have called you by name; you are mine.**

One: Let us worship God!



**Opening Hymn #163**

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice



**Prayer of Confession**

Susan Schell

One: The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

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

**All: Merciful God,**

**in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,**

**making us part of the body of Christ.**

**We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,  
separated from one another.**

**We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,  
and show reluctance to welcome one another.**

**We allow the past to hold us captive.**

**In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us,  
and free us from sin.**

**Fulfill the promises of our baptism  
so that we may rise to new life,  
and live together in grace.**

(Time of silence)

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

As a voice from heaven said to Jesus,  
so, in Christ, God speaks to us:  
You are my child, my beloved;  
with you I am well pleased.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*Matthew 3:17*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Passing The Peace**

Susan Schell

## **Words of Welcome**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

## **Choral Anthem**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Purcell/Fedak

## **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**



### **Prayer for Illumination**

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**

Isaiah 42:1-9, read by Henry Sowah

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.



### **Scripture**

*Matthew 3:13-17*

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

**Sermon**

"Beloved"

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**Piano Meditation**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Gathering Celebrations and Concerns**

**Prayer Hymn #144**

In the Bleak Midwinter (verses 1, 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**

Susan Schell

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**Invitation to Communion**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread,  
and when he had given thanks, he broke it,  
and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
This is my body, given for you.  
Eat this bread, and remember me.

In the same way, Jesus took the cup, saying:  
This is the new covenant, sealed in my blood.  
Drink this cup, and remember me.

After he rose from the dead, Jesus said:  
All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all people,  
baptizing them in the name of the triune God,  
and teaching them my commandments.  
And remember: I am with you always.

## **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks and praise, O God,  
for your saving love poured out in human history—  
the blessing of your Word and Spirit at creation,  
the deliverance of your people through the sea,  
the way your justice rolls down like water,  
the river of life that flows from your throne.

We give you thanks and praise, O God,  
for Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord—  
how he poured out his life in love for the world  
through the baptism of his death and resurrection;  
how he feeds and fills us with his body and blood  
through the bread and cup we share in his name.

Now pour out your Holy Spirit, O God,  
to transform us for your service—  
through the gospel of salvation,  
through the font of new creation,  
through the feast of our redemption,  
until your realm of glory comes.

We give you thanks and praise, O God,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
in the unity of your Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

Jesus said: Let anyone who is thirsty come to me;      *John 7:37–38*  
out of the believer's heart living waters shall flow.

Jesus said: I am the bread of life;      *John 6:35*  
whoever comes to me will never be hungry.

Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches;      *John 15:5; 6:35*  
whoever believes in me will never thirst.

## **Communion**

*Worshipers may touch the water of the font on the way to the table. After receiving the bread and cup, those who wish may also receive an anointing with oil, given with these words: "Remember your baptism and be thankful, and know that the Holy Spirit is at work within you."*

**Hymn #525**

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

**Prayer After Communion**

Thank you, O God, for making us one—  
one in the body, the Spirit, the Lord,  
one in the faith and baptism we share.  
Send us out as one people in your service;  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*Ephesians 4:4–5*

**WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME****Closing Hymn #157**

I Danced In The Morning

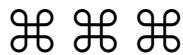
**Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**Postlude**

**"Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ"**

Johann Michael Bach  
Arr. Jacques Drillon



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

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## **2023 CHURCH OFFICERS**

### **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

### **Trustees**

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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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## 163 Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

1 Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech - oes through the des - ert still,  
 2 "Bear the fruit re - pen-tance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 3 With such preach-ing, stark and bold, John pro-claimed sal - va - tion near,

call - ing us to make a choice, bid - ding us to do God's will:  
 Trust no oth - er claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove.  
 and his time-less warn-ings hold words of hope to all who hear.

"Turn from sin and be bap-tized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.  
 Soon the Lord will come in power, burn - ing clean the thresh-ing floor:  
 So we dare to jour - ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod,

Quit-ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol.  
 then will flames the chaff de - vor; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."  
 till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of God.

While all four gospels identify John the Baptist with the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3, this text (well set to a vigorous Welsh tune) draws on the report of his preaching in Matthew 3:1-12. The final lines recall that he was the first to name Jesus "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29, 36).

## In the Bleak Midwinter 144

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost - y wind made moan;  
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;  
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there;  
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a-phim thronged the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

## 157 I Danced in the Morning

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (F<sup>#</sup>m) (Bm)  
 F Dm Am Dm

1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I  
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but  
 3 I danced on the Sab - bath and I cured the lame. The  
 4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's  
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. ♫

(Em) (A)  
 Gm C

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I  
 they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I  
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They  
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They  
 I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D) (Bm) (F<sup>#</sup>m) (Bm)  
 F Dm Am Dm

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At  
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They  
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone,  
 live in you if you'll live in me, but

(Em) (A7) (G) (D)  
 Gm C7 B<sup>♭</sup> F

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
 came with me and the dance went on.  
 left me there on a cross to die.  
 I am the dance and I still go on.  
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the life of Christ, though written for this Shaker tune, has many similarities with the pre-Reformation carol "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." Such narrative carols were common both at Christmas and as part of medieval mystery plays.

## JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

*Refrain*

( F#m ) ( Bm ) ( F#m ) ( Bm ) ( D ) ( Bm )

Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

( Em ) ( A ) ( D ) ( Bm ) ( D ) ( A7 ) ( D )

Gm C F Dm F C7 F

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

( Em ) ( A7 ) ( D ) ( G ) ( D )

Gm C7 F B♭ F

and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.