



# WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York  
October 15, 2023  
Service of Worship 10:00 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT WORSHIP  
The Twentieth 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**

"Adagio In A Minor"

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Call to Worship (Psalm 95:1-2)**

Kris Wilhelm

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 #81**

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"



**Prayer of Confession**

Kris Wilhelm

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**

Kris Wilhelm

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**

Kris Wilhelm

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**Choral Anthem**

“Rejoice In The Lord”

Arr. Alfred Fedak

**WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**



**Prayer for Illumination**

Kris Wilhelm

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**

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Sermon**

“How Do I Become More Loving?”

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Prayer Hymn #819**

“Be Still, My Soul”, verses 1 & 2

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Prayer Hymn #819

“Be Still, My Soul”, verse 3

Prayers from State Street

Ned Trudeau

Prayers of the People

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

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

Kris Wilhelm

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 #837

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

“Sicilian Mariners”

Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953)



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  
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**

John Bossung and Leif Hartmark, Co-chairs  
David Adjei, Marie McClumpha, Laura Moody, David Norman,  
Pete Seagle, Joy L. Tallmadge, Kathy Walter, Peter Wrede

## **CHURCH PROGRAM TEAM**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Pastor  
[pastor@wpcalbany.org](mailto:pastor@wpcalbany.org)  
Cell: 240-281-5005

Christopher Price, Music Director  
[music@wpcalbany.org](mailto:music@wpcalbany.org)

Belinda Quaye, Director of Christian Education  
[belindaquaye@wpcalbany.org](mailto:belindaquaye@wpcalbany.org)

## **CHURCH SUPPORT TEAM**

Lorraine Charboneau, Church Administrator  
[office@wpcalbany.org](mailto:office@wpcalbany.org)

Kim Deal, Communications Manager  
[communications@wpcalbany.org](mailto:communications@wpcalbany.org)

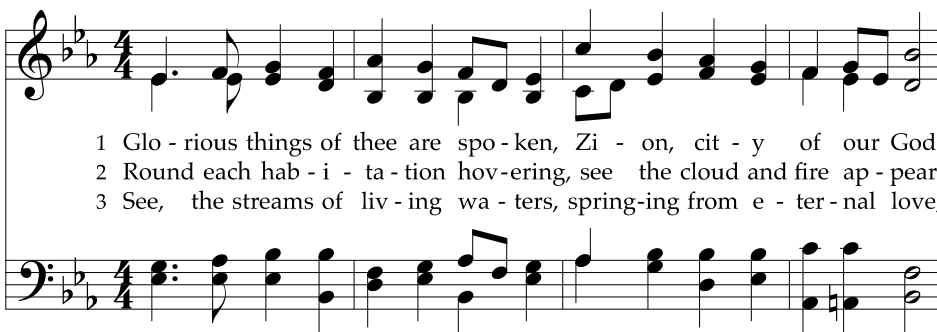
Forrest Holroyd, Treasurer  
[treasurer@wpcalbany.org](mailto:treasurer@wpcalbany.org)

Joy L. Tallmadge, Associate Sexton

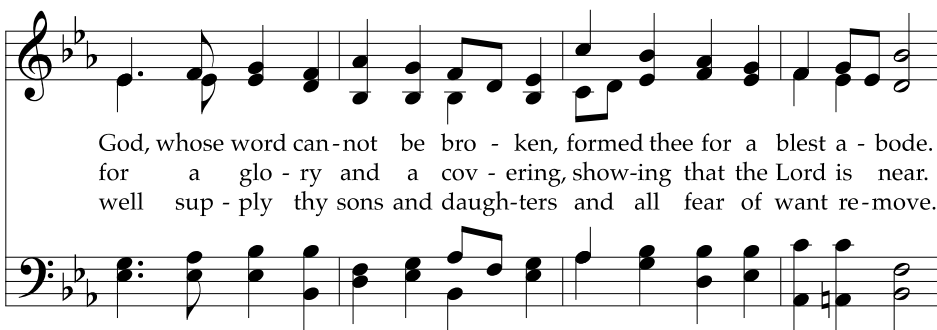
## **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

262 State Street (Mail to: 85 Chestnut Street)  
Albany, New York 12210  
Office: (518) 436-8544  
Email: [office@wpcalbany.org](mailto:office@wpcalbany.org) website: <https://wpcalbany.org>

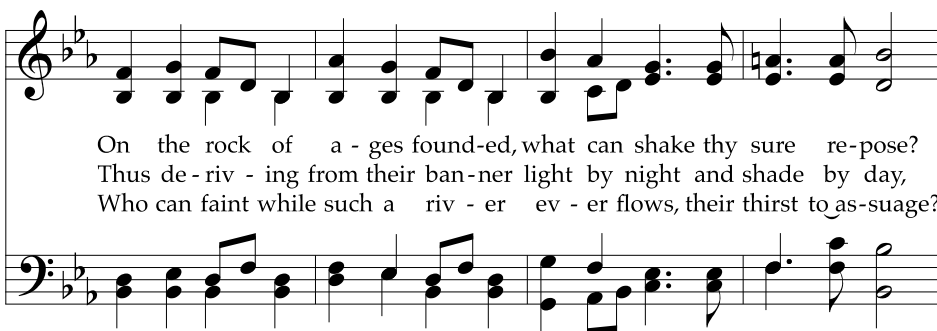
# 81 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken



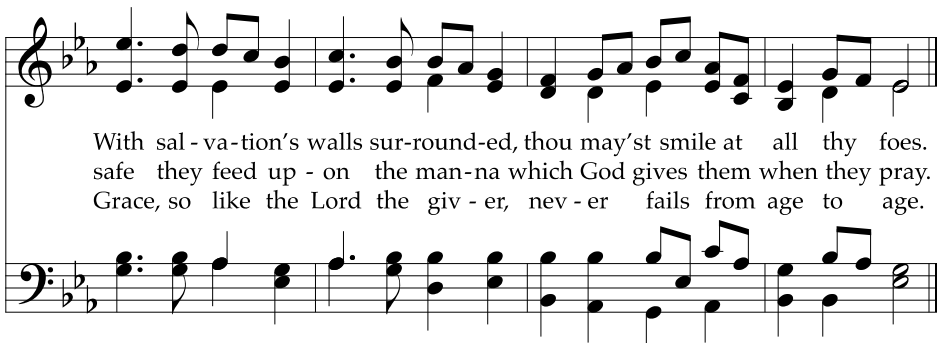
1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.  
2 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear  
3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,



God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.  
for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.  
well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.



On the rock of a - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?  
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,  
Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as - suage?



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.  
safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.  
Grace, so like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.

The Nazi appropriation of this tune for propaganda purposes has clouded a noble piece of music first associated with this text in 1889. In a 1779 collection, the author indicated that this hymn is primarily based on Isaiah 33:20–21 with allusions to several other passages.

# 819 Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.  
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take  
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.  
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.  
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,  
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;  
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.  
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.  
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

This meditative text seems to be rooted in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God," while also reaching forward to 1 Thessalonians 4:17b, "we will be with the Lord forever." Much of the appeal of this hymn comes from its tune, named for the tone poem on which it is based.

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST



Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven - ly Friend  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past



through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.  
all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.



# What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine 837

## Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-  
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,  
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

*Refrain*

lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing,  
 Lean-ing on Je-sus,

lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing  
 lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on

ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

The composer of the tune (and creator of the refrain) asked the author of the stanzas to write a hymn based on the latter part of Deuteronomy 33:27 (as worded in the King James Version): "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Their joint effort has proved very popular.