



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
November 5, 2023
Service of Worship 10:00 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT WORSHIP
All Saints Sunday



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 our coffee hour.** We gather in the hall located directly under the sanctuary. Stairs are located through the doors on either side of the front of the sanctuary, followed by another stairway that leads downstairs. Additional stairs and an elevator are available at the rear of the sanctuary. We recognize that our 19th century building can be confusing to navigate! **We are here to help**—please speak to an usher if you need assistance.



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

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

John B. Dykes/Victor Labenske
William B. Bradbury/Victor Labenske



Call to Worship (Psalm 95:1-2)

Susan Schell

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 #326

For All the Saints



Prayer of Confession

Susan Schell

One: Jesus said: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

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

**All: Eternal God,
in every age you have raised up men and women
to live and die in faith.**

We confess that we are often indifferent to your will.

**You call us to proclaim your name,
but we are silent.**

**You call us to do what is just,
but we remain idle.**

**You call us to live faithfully,
but we are afraid.**

In your mercy, forgive us.

Give us courage to follow in your way,
that joined with those from ages past,
who have served you with faith, hope, and love,
we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ.

(Time of silence)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Susan Schell

One: Jesus said: Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God.

Passing The Peace

Susan Schell

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

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 Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?"

I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Choral Anthem

The Light of that City

Charles Billingsley



Scripture Reading

1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Reflections

“What We Learned By Heart”

by Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff
and the Congregation

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Choral Anthem

In Paradisum from Requiem

Gabriel Fauré

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

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.**



Stewardship Moment

Susan Schell

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.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion



Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: 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.

It is indeed right to give our thanks and praise
to you, the God of Abraham and Sarah,
Miriam and Moses,
Joshua, Deborah, Ruth,
David, priests, and prophets,
Mary, Joseph, Peter and Paul,
apostles, and martyrs, and ordinary unknown saints .
You are the God of our mothers and fathers
and our children to all generations.
You, Everlasting One, made us all.
You fashion us into one people,
and continue to love us
even when we deny our godly heritage.
Still, you call us home to you
through saints dedicated to your will.
Therefore we praise you joining our voices with all the people of faith of every time and place who forever
sing to the glory of your name:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory!
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, most gracious God,
for the gift of your child,
our brother, Jesus Christ,
who lived in accord with your will
to the point of laying down his life
for the good news he preached
and passed on to us.
On the night of his arrest,
he taught us how to serve one another in love
with a ritual of table fellowship
enjoyed by Christians of all times and places.
And so in remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves with thanksgiving
as a living sacrifice.
In union with Christ's offering for us,
we live out the mystery of the faith we proclaim:

All: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Spirit of the living God,
make us one as we partake of these your gifts to us
so we might be in communion with you and one another.

**All: As we break bread together,
may our eyes be opened to see your glory.
As we lift the cup of salvation,
may we be strengthened to follow your Way.**



Words of Institution and Sharing Bread and Cup

Communion Hymn #523

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart



Prayer after Communion

One: After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, crying out with a loud voice:

All: "Salvation belongs to our "God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!"

One: And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying,

All: "Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen!"

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #770

I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

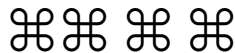
Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

Holy, Holy, Holy
O God, Our Help in Ages Past

John B. Dykes/Victor Labenske
William Croft/Victor Labenske



We welcome Margaret Randall & Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher as this week's accompanists. Thank you Margaret & Darhon!

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2023 CHURCH OFFICERS

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326 For All the Saints



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
 3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The broad and sweeping tune with which this hymn is so closely identified was created to be sung during a reverent but dramatic procession at the beginning of an All Saints' Day service, an enacted representation of the enduring "fellowship divine" celebrated by this text.

Harmony, stanza 3

3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!

We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet

all are one in thee, for all are thine.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

to stanza 4

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.

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart 523

Refrain D Bm G F#m D/F# Em A D

You sat-is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat;

Bm F#m Em A D *Fine*

come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

Bm G F#m G A7 Bm

- 1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice,
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
- 4 The mys-tery of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

Em A Em Em7 *to Refrain* A

so when you call your fam - ily, Lord, we fol - low and re-joice.
 that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heaven - ly food.
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
 whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
 to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Submitted together, this text and tune were chosen from about two hundred entries to be the official hymn for the 41st International Eucharistic Congress held at Philadelphia in 1976. At the center of its many biblical images, the third stanza draws on 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.

770 I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

1 I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble;
 2 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus;
 3 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers;
 4 Here all the world will find a wel - come;
 5 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey;

I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.
 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.
 here all the world will find a wel-come, Al - le - lu - ia.
 we're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble; I'm gon - na
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus; I'm gon - na
 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers; I'm gon - na
 Here all the world will find a wel - come; here all the
 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey; we're gon - na

eat at the wel - come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.
 eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.
 join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.
 world will find a wel - come, Al - le - lu - ia.
 feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

The image of a great feast showing God's welcome of all people was part of Jewish tradition (Isaiah 25:6-9) and underlies Jesus' parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:15-24). Such equality remains as unknown to many people today as it was to the slaves who created this spiritual.