



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
November 12, 2023
Service of Worship 10:00 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT WORSHIP
The Twenty-Fourth 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 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

"I Need Thee Every Hour"
"Lord, I Need You"

Robert Lowry
Nockels, Carson, Reeves,
Stanfill, Maher

Call to Worship (1 John 4:7, 19)

Carolyn Smith



One: Beloved, let us love one another.

All: We love because God first loved us.

One: Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn #806

"I'll Praise My Maker"



Prayer of Confession

Carolyn Smith

One: Let us now confess our sins, trusting in God's boundless mercy and grace.

**All: Almighty God,
you love us, but we have not loved you.
You call, but we have not listened.
We walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.**

God of grace,
help us to admit our sin,
so that as you come to us in mercy,
we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our redeemer.

(Time of silence)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Carolyn Smith

One: Hear the good news!
Hope does not disappoint us,
for God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism.

Believe this good news and give thanks:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Amen.

Passing The Peace

Carolyn Smith

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choral Anthem

"Ubi Caritas"

Arr. Maurice Durufle

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Carolyn Smith

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 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.

Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Sermon

"Responding to God's Grace"

Bruce France

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #286 "Breathe On Me, Breath of God" (verse 1 & 2)

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Prayer Hymn #286 "Breathe On Me, Breath of God" (verses 3 & 4)

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

Carolyn Smith

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.

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #821

"My Life Flows On"

Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

"How Can I Keep from Singing"
"Praise Him!"

Tomlin, Cash, Redman
Chester Allen

*Flowers today are given by Gail Garrison to honor her parents,
Anna & Thomas Garrison
On the anniversary of her adoption*

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

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2023 CHURCH OFFICERS

Session

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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

Trustees

John Bossung and Leif Hartmark, Co-chairs
David Adjei, Marie McClumpha, Laura Moody, David Norman,
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806 I'll Praise My Maker

(Psalm 146)

1 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice
 2 How hap - py they whose hopes re - ly on Is - rael's God,
 3 The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; the Lord sup - ports
 4 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice

is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.
 who made the sky and earth and seas with all their train;
 the faint - ing mind and sends the la - boring con - science peace.
 is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.

My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought
 whose truth for - ev - er stands se - cure, who saves the op - pressed
 God helps the strang - er in dis - tress, the wid - owed and
 My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought

and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.
 and feeds the poor, and none shall find God's prom - ise vain.
 the par - ent - less, and grants the pris - oner sweet re - lease.
 and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.

This paraphrase of Psalm 146 was a great favorite of John Wesley: it appeared in his first hymn collection in 1737 (published in Charleston, South Carolina) and was on his lips when he died. The 16th-century tune to which it is set here is the one Watts had in mind for it.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics, and the bass staff contains a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new, 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure, 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine, 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

The second system of music continues the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics are: that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do. un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure. un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine. but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

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 HUNDRETH
LM

SERVICE MUSIC

here below; praise Holy Spirit ever more;

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

821

My Life Flows On How Can I Keep from Singing?

1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

In the *New York Observer* of August 7, 1868, this text was titled "Always Rejoicing," and was attributed to "Pauline T." This may well be where the Baptist pastor and musician to whom it is usually credited encountered the words that he later published with his tune.