

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

HHHH

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.

HHH

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

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" Tomlin, Cash, Redman
"Praise Him!" 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

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

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Joy L. Tallmadge, Associate Sexton

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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 Is - rael's God, 3 The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; the Lord sup-ports praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice death, praise shall em-ploy my no - bler powers. is lost in who made the sky earth and seas with all their and and sends the la-boring con-science peace. faint - ing mind death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers. of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought whose truth for - ev - er stands se - cure, who saves the op-pressed helps the strang - er in dis - tress, the wid - owed 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

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.

grants the pris-oner sweet re-lease.

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im - mor - tal - i -

par - ent - less,

be - ing

and

or

last,

en - dures.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286



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.

TEXT: Edwin Hatch, 1878 MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888 TRENTHAM SM

607

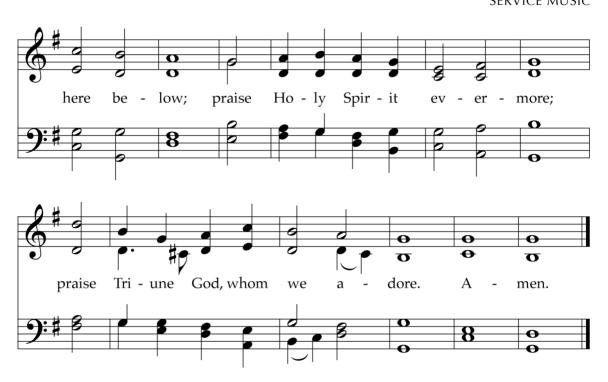
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

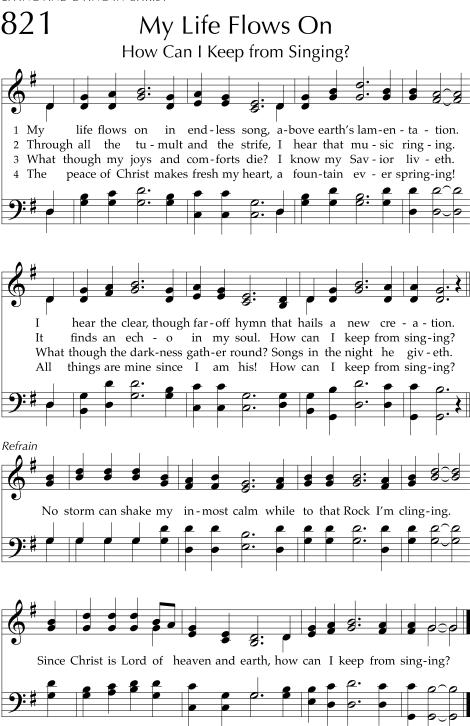


TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988 MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551 Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg

OLD HUNDREDTH

SERVICE MUSIC





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.