



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
November 19, 2023
Service of Worship 10:00 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT WORSHIP
The Twenty-Fifth 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

"Autumn Song"

Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky

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

Fatmata Hilton



One: Beloved, let us love one another.

All: We love because God first loved us.

One: Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn #336

"We Gather Together"



Prayer of Confession

Fatmata Hilton

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

Fatmata Hilton

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

Fatmata Hilton

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choral Anthem

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Arr. Robert J. Powell

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Fatmata Hilton

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 25:14-30

[Jesus said,] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Sermon

"Let It Grow"

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #656

"We've Come This Far by Faith"
(one verse choir, one verse with everyone)

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Prayer Hymn #656

"We've Come This Far by Faith"
(everyone)

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.**



Stewardship Reflection

Lisa Petter

Hymn #647

"Give Thanks"

Dedication of Gifts and Pledges

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

One: We dedicate our gifts to you, O God

All: Help us to use all the blessings we have received, glorifying you and loving our neighbors.

We dedicate our pledges to you, O God.

Guide our Elders to make wise decisions about how these funds should be used.

We dedicate our church to you, O God.

Show us how to deepen our prayers, widen our welcome, and raise our hopes.

We dedicate ourselves to you, O God.

You are the Owner, Lord, we are the owner.

We pray that all that we offer would be blessed, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

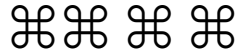
Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

“Andante”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



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

Permission to reprint and stream the copyrighted music in this service is obtained from ONE LICENSE #A-700692, CCLI Streaming License #21525228 and/or CCLI Reprint #21525211. All rights reserved.

Stay in Touch with Westminster

- Visit our website: <https://wpcalbany.org>
- Like us on Facebook: [Westminster Presbyterian Church Albany](#)
- Get weekly news email messages by providing a current email address to the church office at office@wpcalbany.org or calling (518) 436-8544

For more about Westminster's online communications, please contact us: communications@wpcalbany.org

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
Cell: 240-281-5005

Christopher Price, Music Director
music@wpcalbany.org

Belinda Quaye, Director of Christian Education
belindaquaye@wpcalbany.org

CHURCH SUPPORT TEAM

Lorraine Charboneau, Church Administrator
office@wpcalbany.org

Kim Deal, Communications Manager
communications@wpcalbany.org

Forrest Holroyd, Treasurer
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 website: <https://wpcalbany.org>

We Gather Together 336

1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
 2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
 3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
 and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing.
 so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
 Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
 thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glo - ry be thine!
 thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

First published among songs celebrating the end of Spanish control of the Netherlands, this text's blend of patriotism and piety has made it popular at (often ecumenical) Thanksgiving Day services. The tune is named for the Viennese arranger whose male chorus popularized it.

We've Come This Far by Faith 656

We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord,

trust-ing in the ho-ly Word; God's nev-er failed us yet.

O, can't turn a-round, we've come this

far by faith. We've come this far by faith.

This refrain from a longer hymn could well be understood as a black gospel reflection on several biblical passages: 2 Corinthians 5:7, 1 Samuel 7:12, and 1 Chronicles 17:16. All these texts bear witness to God's faithfulness toward all who are engaged in the pilgrimage of faith.

647 Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for

us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

Drawing on language from 2 Corinthians 6:10 and 12:10 as well as Psalm 126:3, this short and repetitive song can be easily memorized. The simple vocabulary makes it suitable for multigenerational use, reminding all ages how gratitude for God's goodness changes our perspective.

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

**Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."*

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22–23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
 날 마 다 자 비 를 베 푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
 일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주