



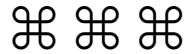
# WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York  
November 26, 2023  
Service of Worship 10:00 AM

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT WORSHIP

## Reign of Christ



**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, Priceless Treasure”

F. W. Zachau (1663-1712)

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

Pete Seagle



One: Beloved, let us love one another.

**All: We love because God first loved us.**

One: Let us worship God!

#### **Opening Hymn #268**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”



#### **Prayer of Confession**

Pete Seagle

One: In Christ, God came to reconcile all things.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**All: Righteous God,  
you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all.  
We confess that we have not bowed before him,  
and are slow to acknowledge his rule.  
We give allegiance to the powers of this world,  
and fail to be governed by justice and love.**

**In your mercy, forgive us.  
Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all,  
that we may be loyal ambassadors,  
obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

(Time of silence)

**Assurance of Forgiveness (Collosians 1:13-14)**

Pete Seagle

One: God has rescued us from the power of evil  
and claimed us for the realm of Jesus Christ,  
in whom we have redemption.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**All: Amen.**

**Passing The Peace**

Pete Seagle

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**Choral Anthem**

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Arr. Robert Shaw

**WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**



**Prayer for Illumination**

Daniel Sowah

One: Sovereign God,  
let your Word rule in our hearts  
and your Spirit govern our lives  
until at last we see the fulfillment  
of your realm of justice and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 25:31-46

read by Daniel Sowah

[Jesus said,] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

**Sermon**

“Reign In Me”

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #851

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God (two times)

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Prayer Hymn #851

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God

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.



Invitation to the Offering

Hymn #607

Doxology

Charge to the Congregation

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

## WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #773

Heaven Shall Not Wait

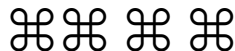
Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Eric Thiman (1900 - 1975)



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**

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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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# Crown Him with Many Crowns 268

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways  
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:  
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 but down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.  
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

# Come, Bring Your Burdens to God 851

*Woza nomthwalo wakho*

*Leader*  
(no.) Come, bring your bur - dens; O

*All*  
Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your  
Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom -

come, bring your bur - dens; O come, bring your bur - dens.

bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for  
thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho U -

*(except last time)*  
Je - sus will nev - er say

Je - sus will nev - er say no.  
ye - s' a - ka - so - za - thi hayi.

A great strength of music from southeastern Africa is that it usually emerges from communal life, and in singing such songs we unite our sung prayers with those of the people who created them. This one is based on the singing of the Mooiplaas congregation in South Africa.

# 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  
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SERVICE MUSIC

here below; praise Holy Spirit ever more;

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



# Heaven Shall Not Wait 773

Capo 1: (D) (G) (A) (A7) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)  
 Eb Ab Bb Bb7 Eb Cm7 Fm Bb

1 Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their pa-tience,  
 2 Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their for-tunes,  
 3 Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great i - de - as,  
 4 Heaven shall not wait for tri - um-phiant Hal - le - lu - jahs,

(D) (G) (A) (A7) (D) (G) (Asus) (A)  
 Eb Ab Bb Bb7 Eb Ab Bbsus Bb

the scorned to smile, the de-spised to find a friend:  
 the proud to fall, the e - lite to tend the least:  
 thoughts of com - pas - sion di - vorced from cries of pain:  
 when earth has passed and we reach an - oth - er shore:

(Bm7) (Em) (F#m) (Bm7) (D) (Em7) (A)  
 Cm7 Fm Gm Cm7 Eb Fm7 Bb

Je - sus is Lord; he has cham - pioned the un - want - ed;  
 Je - sus is Lord; he has shown the mas - ter's priv - ilege:  
 Je - sus is Lord; he has mar - ried word and ac - tion;  
 Je - sus is Lord in our pres - ent im - per - fec - tion;

(D) (G) (A) (A7) (D) (Bm) (Em)  
 Eb Ab Bb Bb7 Eb Cm Fm

in him in - jus - tice con - fronts its time - ly  
 to kneel and wash ser - vants' feet be - fore they  
 his cross and com - pa - ny make his pur - pose  
 his power and love are for now and then for

1-3	(Asus)	(A)	4	(Asus)	(A)	(D)
	Bbsus	Bb		Bbsus	Bb	Eb

end. ev - er - more.  
 feast.  
 plain.

This stirring, prophetic hymn is organized around two recurring four-syllable phrases, the first of which introduces an idealized scenario of what Dietrich Bonhoeffer would call "cheap grace," while the second announces the "costly grace" of God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ.