



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
January 29, 2023
Service of Worship 10:00 am

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany



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

He Hideth My Soul

Arr. Victor Labenske
(William J. Kilpatrick)



Call to Worship

Gabriel Ofori-Okai

One: This is the day that the Lord has made!

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: Let us worship God.



Opening Hymn #726

Will You Come and Follow Me



Prayer of Confession

Gabriel Ofori-Okai

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

**All: Merciful God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.**

**Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.**

**The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
and nation against nation.**

**We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.**

**Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

(Time of silence)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gabriel Ofori-Okai

One: Do not fear, says the Lord,
for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name; you are mine.
God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth!
By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Amen.

Passing The Peace

Gabriel Ofori-Okai

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Peter McKee

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

Micah 6:1-8, read by Peter McKee

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?



Scripture

Matthew 5:1-12, read by Carolyn Smith

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
 and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
 for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon	What Does the Lord Require?	Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff
Piano Meditation	We Shall Walk Through the Valley In Peace	Arr. Victor Labenske (American Spiritual)

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayer Hymn #468 "In My Life"

Prayers from our Partners and Prayers of the People Gabriel Ofori-Okai

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.**



Offering

Gabriel Ofori-Okai

Choral Anthem	Entertain the Angels	Heather Sorenson
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Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

Statement on Ordination

Constitutional Questions

Questions to the Congregation (led by Leah Threatte, Clerk of Session)

Do we, the members of the church,
 accept Ephraim, Peter, Linore, Kelly and Carolyn as ruling elders and deacons,
 chosen by God through the voice of this congregation
 to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them,
to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us,
serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Prayer of Ordination and Installation

Recognition of Trustees

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #172

Blest Are They

Charge and Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

Jesus, My Cross Have Taken

Arr. Victor Labenske
(Attr. to W.A. Mozart)



After a short break, we will continue with our **Annual Meeting** after worship today. Whether you are a long-time member or a new friend, please join us to celebrate the many ways in which we responded to God's call in 2022.

After the Annual meeting, there will be **coffee, tea and cookies in our Fellowship Hall**, located on our ground floor. Our ushers will happily direct you! All are most welcome.

We welcome Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher as this week's guest musician. Thank you 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

CHURCH PROGRAM TEAM

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Joy L. Tallmadge, Associate Sexton

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726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Bb F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)
 Gm7 Bb Am7 Bb Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Bb F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.

468

In My Life

Lord, Be Glorified

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble clef staff.

1 In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo - ri - fied.
2 In our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo - ri - fied.
3 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo - ri - fied.
4 In your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo - ri - fied.

This praise song can be understood as a sung version of the first part of the answer to the first question of the Westminster Catechism: that a human being's "chief end is to glorify God." Numerous related Scriptures can be cited, including 1 Corinthians 6:20 and 10:31.

PRAYER

In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.
In our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.
In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.
In your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It features a vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line. The lyrics are: "In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day. In our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day. In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day. In your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day."

Blest Are They

172

Gsus Leader or All G D C

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; they shall in -
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; they are the
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, all be -

Dsus D7 Gsus G Gsus G

king - dom of God. Blest are they,
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who
 shall be theirs. Blest are they, the
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
 cause of me. Re - joice, be glad;

D C Dsus D Gsus G

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
 pure of heart; they shall see God.
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain All C D7 G D Em G C G

Re - joice and be glad! Bless - ed are you;

Am A D C D7 Em Em7

ho - ly are you! Re - joice and be glad!

C Dsus D C G

Yours is the king - dom of God!

This hymn paraphrases the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1–12), the opening portion of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount. Similar words of blessing also occur in the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:20–23). Both sets of sayings reverse worldly values and offer a new understanding of God’s ways.