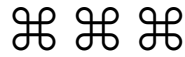




WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
February 26, 2023 ~ The First Sunday in Lent
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.



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 coffee hour.** We gather in the hall located directly under our sanctuary. Stairs are located on either side of the State Street entrance to our building.



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

(Let the notes of our Opening Prelude be the musical curtain through which we pass as we gather to worship together. Let the preparation we make together be prayerful.)

Prelude

At the Cross

Ralph E. Hudson
Arr. Victor Labenske



Call to Worship

Peter McKee

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in love.

Psalm 103:8

All: Let us worship God!



Opening Hymn #319

Men of Faith, Rise Up and Sing



Prayer of Confession

Peter McKee

One: Are you thirsty for grace? Are you hungry for mercy?
God is calling; come to the waters.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Isaiah 55:1

**All: God of mercy,
you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.
We confess that we have strayed from you
and turned aside from your way.
We are misled by pride,
for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,
and great when we are small.
We have failed in love,
neglected justice,
and ignored your truth.**

**Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.
Return us to paths of righteousness
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

(Time of silence)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Peter McKee

One: Listen, so that you may live:
The steadfast love of the Lord never fails
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem

Christ Has Saved Us, Christ Alone!

Music by Mary McDonald
Text by Justin Wainscott

Lift your voices, let us sing praises to our gracious King!
From His Spirit to our hearts, sweet assurance He imparts.

Christ has saved us, Christ alone; by His blood our sin atoned. All the glory to Him alone!
Christ has saved us, Christ alone.

No more fear and no more shame, Satan's lies are all the same.
If the guilt of sin delay, with assurance, we can say:
Christ has saved us, etc.

When no more this life we see, then in heaven we shall be;
There, we'll join the countless host and this shall be our boast:
Christ has saved us, etc.

Passing The Peace

Peter McKee

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness,
guide us, by your Word, through these forty days,
and minister to us with your Holy Spirit,
so that we may reformed, restored, and renewed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Scripture Lesson

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.”

Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”

Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Sermon

“Get Curious”

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayer Hymn #469

Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying



Prayers from our Partners and Prayers of the People

Gabriel Ofori-Okai

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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

Peter McKee

Offering Hymn #698

Take, O Take Me as I Am

Responding to God's Call

Judy Hartley on Bread for the World's Shower of Letters

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #307

God of Grace and God of Glory

Charge and Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choral Response

Go Now in Peace

Don Besig

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Amen, Amen, Amen

Postlude

Lead Me to Calvary

William J. Kirkpatrick
Arr. Victor Labenske



We welcome Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher as this week's accompanist. Thank you Darhon!

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

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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

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319 Men of Faith, Rise Up and Sing

Shout to the North

E B A2

1 Men of faith, rise up and sing of the
 (2 Rise up,) wom - en of the truth. Stand and
 (3 Rise up,) church, with bro - ken wings; fill this

E B A2 E B

great and glo - rious King. You are strong when you feel
 sing to bro - ken hearts who can know the heal - ing
 place with songs a - gain of our God who reigns on

A2 E B A2

weak; in your bro - ken - ness, com - plete.
 power of our awe - some King of love.
 high; by God's grace a - gain we'll fly.

Chorus

E A B E

Shout to the north and the south; sing to the

A B E A B A B

east and the west. Je - sus is Sav - ior to all, Lord of heav - en and

1, 3 2

earth. 2 Rise up, earth.
 3 Rise up,

This praise and worship song comes from Delirious?, an English Christian rock and worship band. Although the style is new, the message is an enduring one: God will provide the strength we need to proclaim the good news of salvation to all parts of the world.

THE CHURCH

Bridge

C#m A

We've been through fire; we've been through rain;

C#m A

we've been re - fined by the power of your name.

C#m A

We've fall - en deep - er in love with you.

A Bsus B *to Chorus*

You've burned this truth on our lips.

E A B *Repeat as desired* E

earth. He is Lord of heav - en and earth.

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying 469

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing. Lord, send your

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a whole chord, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes, and ends with a whole chord. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The top staff features a mix of chords and moving lines, while the bottom staff maintains the harmonic support with chords and bass notes.

pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

The third system concludes the chorus. The top staff has a more active melodic line with eighth notes and quarter notes, leading to a final chord. The bottom staff provides a steady accompaniment with chords and bass notes.

This chorus from a longer song has become a popular sung prayer for the presence of the Holy Spirit. Easily memorized, it makes a very suitable sung response at appropriate points during a series of prayer concerns or with repeated singing can open or close a time of prayer.

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The treble staff features a vocal line with lyrics: "Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall". The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble staff has lyrics: "be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.". The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.