



WESTMINSTER

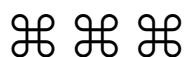
— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
March 26, 2023 ~ The Fifth 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

Prelude on a Melody

Healey Willan (1880-1968)



Call to Worship

Pete Seagle

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

Psalm 103:8

All: Let us worship God!



Opening Hymn #418

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



Prayer of Confession

Pete Seagle

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

Pete Seagle

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.

Passing The Peace

Pete Seagle

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choral Anthem

He Comes To Us As One Unknown

Music Arr. John Ferguson
Text by Timothy Dudley-Smith

He comes to us as one unknown, a breath unseen, unheard; as though
within a heart of stone, or shriveled seed in darkness sown, a pulse of
being stirred.

He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of day depart; half-seen
upon the inward eye, a falling star across the sky of night within the
heart.

He comes to us in sound of seas, the ocean's fume and foam; yet small
and still upon the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of trees, a voice
to call us home.

He comes, he comes, as once he came by flesh and blood and birth; to
bear within our mortal frame a life, a death, a saving Name, for ev'ry
child of earth.

He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored; the
Christ in all the Scriptures shown, as yet unseen, but not unknown, our
Savior and our Lord.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Julia Haywood-Dadzie

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 11:1-45, read by Julia Haywood-Dadzie
Text found at the end of the bulletin

Sermon

“Cry Out”

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Musical Meditation

His Eye Is On The Sparrow

Civilla Martin/Charles Gabriel

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayer Hymn #729

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



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

Pete Seagle

Offering Hymn #740

Lead Me, Guide Me

Responding to God’s Call

WE ARE SENT IN GOD’S NAME



Closing Hymn #724

O Jesus, I Have Promised

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

The Old Hundredth

Johann G. Walther (1684-1748)



We welcome Margaret Randall as this week's accompanist. Thank you Margaret!

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John 11:1-45, New Revised Standard Version

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the people were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them."

After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the people had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The people who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the people who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus began to weep. So the people said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the people therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11–32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;
3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,
In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.

740 Lead Me, Guide Me

Capo 1: (D)
Refrain Eb (A7) Bb7 (Em) Fm 3

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you

(A) Bb (D) Eb (A7) Bb7 3 (D) Eb 3

lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each

(A7) Bb7 (B7) C7 (Em) Fm (D) Eb (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb *Fine*

day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

(D) Eb 3 (B7) C7 (Em) Fm (A7) Bb7 (Em) Fm

I am weak and I need your strength and power to help me

(A) Bb (D) Eb (D) Eb (D7) Eb7

o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the dark-ness your

(Em) Fm (D) Eb (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb *to Refrain*

face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This African American gospel hymn can well be understood as an updated adaptation of Psalm 5:8, with the “enemies” of the psalm treated as the pressures and temptations of daily life. As with the psalms, the “I” here is understood to express a shared communal experience.

724 O Jesus, I Have Promised

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;
 2 O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near:
 3 O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4 O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, draw thou near - er and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Written to highlight the promises made by the author's daughter and two sons at their confirmation, this text equally well recalls the promises of discipleship made in Baptism and in the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant. The tune was written for a text now unused.