



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
September 17, 2023
Service of Worship 10:00 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT WORSHIP
The Sixteenth 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 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 Prelude be the musical curtain through which we pass as we gather to worship together. Let the preparation we make together be prayerful.)

Prelude

"March of the Priests"

W. A. Mozart

Call to Worship (Psalm 95:1-2)

Felicia Kollie-Gambles

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord
and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

**All: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,
singing joyful songs of praise.**



Opening Hymn #32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God



Prayer of Confession

Felicia Kollie-Gambles

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
set neighbor against neighbor
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

Felicia Kollie-Gambles

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Amen.

Passing The Peace

Felicia Kollie-Gambles

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Moment for Mission

African Family Night

Felicia Kollie-Gambles

Choral Anthem

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Arr. Hawley Ades

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

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 Readings

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you.
(2 Thessalonians 3:16)

I have said this to you so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution, but take courage:
I have conquered the world!" (John 16:33)

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ
Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

Sermon

"The Lord of Peace"

Ruling Elder Matilda Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #753

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Prayers from State Street

Ned Trudeau

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

Felicia Kollie-Gambles

Hymn #607

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Charge to the Congregation

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #756

O God of Every Nation

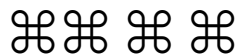
Benediction

RE Matilda Parker

Postlude

"Three Youthful Spirits"

W. A. Mozart



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

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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

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32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
 3 There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes thy glo-ries known.

that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y
 God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
 And clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by or-der from thy

skies. I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day.
 good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
 throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev-er in thy care,

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o-bey.
 if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up-on the sky!
 and ev-ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

With minimal revision this text brings together six of the eight four-line stanzas in an 18th-century hymn written for children and originally headed "Praise for Creation and Providence." The anonymous German tune provides a fitting sense of breadth and wonder.

753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis

D Bm A7 D Em A7

1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It

D Bm G Em A7

there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
 is in par-don-ing that we are par-doned, in

Em A7 Em7 A7

there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord, and
 there is dark-ness, on-ly light, and
 giv-ing of our-selves that we re-ceive, and in

Em A7 D 1 2, 4 (Fine)

where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.
 dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.

G Em D Bm

3 O, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek so

Em A7 D A7 D D7

much to be con-soled as to con-sole, to be

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Though popular opinion credits this prayer to Francis of Assisi, the earliest known printing was in a French religious magazine in 1912. Yet that gentle saint's spirit seems evident in these words, a quality that has spurred many paraphrases and musical settings such as this one.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

The image shows a musical score for the song "JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION". It consists of two staves of music in the key of D major (two sharps). The first staff contains the lyrics "un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be" with guitar chords G, Em, F#m, and Bm. The second staff contains the lyrics "loved as to love with all my soul." with guitar chords E, E7, A, E, A, and A7. A note in the second staff is marked "to Stanza 4".

un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be
loved as to love with all my soul.

to Stanza 4

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 HUNDRETH
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SERVICE MUSIC

here below; praise Holy Spirit ever more;

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

O God of Every Nation 756

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.

TEXT: William W. Reid Jr., 1958, alt.

MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; *Llwybrau Moliant*, 1872; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906
 Text © 1958, ren. 1986 *The Hymn Society* (admin. *Hope Publishing Company*)

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