



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
January 12, 2025
Service of Worship 10:00 am

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Baptism of the Lord



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 Sanctuary Echoes Walker Baylor

Call to Worship Carolyn Smith

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come! *Isaiah 60:1*

All: The glory of God has risen upon us.

Leader: Let us worship God!



Opening Hymn #163

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice



Prayer of Confession

Carolyn Smith

One: The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

All: Merciful God,

in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,

making us part of the body of Christ.

We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,

separated from one another.

We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,

and show reluctance to welcome one another.

We allow the past to hold us captive.

**In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us,
and free us from sin.**

**Fulfill the promises of our baptism
so that we may rise to new life,
and live together in grace.**

(Time of silence)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Carolyn Smith

As a voice from heaven said to Jesus,
so, in Christ, God speaks to us:
You are my child, my beloved;
with you I am well pleased.

Matthew 3:17

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God.

Passing The Peace

Carolyn Smith

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choral Anthem

My Son The Beloved

David Blackwell

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

One: Saving God, source of our calling,
your Word is full of power and glory.
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
so that we may receive your grace
and live as your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Scripture

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

read by Carolyn Smith

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon

“Stand With”

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer Hymn #288

Spirit of the Living God (sung two times)

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayer Hymn #288

Spirit of the Living God (sung one time)

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

Carolyn Smith

Offertory Music

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

Paul Bouman

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.**

WE ARE SENT IN GOD’S NAME

Charge to the Congregation

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff



Closing Hymn #157

I Danced In The Morning

Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

Postlude in G

Edward H. Wetherill



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2025 CHURCH OFFICERS

Session

Leah Threatte, Clerk of Session

2025: Ephraim Adjei, Peter McKee, Linore Southworth

2026: John Bossung, Kate Gallagher, Felicia Kollie-Gambles

2027: Nancy Holroyd, Susan Schell

Deacons

Mary Bullis and Dodie Seagle, Co-moderators

2025: Kelly Crisfield, Carolyn Smith

2026: Mary Bullis, Marie McClumpha, Dodie Seagle

2027: Lily Easton, Maxine Quaye

Trustees

John Bossung and Leif Hartmark, Co-chairs

2025: John Bossung

2026: Pete Seagle, Joy L. Tallmadge, Peter Wrede

2027: David Nti Adjei, Fatmata Hilton

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163 Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

1 Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech-oes through the des - ert still,
 2 "Bear the fruit re - pen-tance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth, and love.
 3 With such preach-ing, stark and bold, John pro-claimed sal - va - tion near,

call - ing us to make a choice, bid - ding us to do God's will:
 Trust no oth - er claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove.
 and his time-less warn-ings hold words of hope to all who hear.

"Turn from sin and be bap-tized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
 Soon the Lord will come in power, burn-ing clean the thresh-ing floor:
 So we dare to jour - ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod,

Quit-ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol.
 then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."
 till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of God.

While all four gospels identify John the Baptist with the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3, this text (well set to a vigorous Welsh tune) draws on the report of his preaching in Matthew 3:1-12. The final lines recall that he was the first to name Jesus "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29, 36).

Spirit of the Living God 288

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

KOREAN

살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
 빛으시고 채우소서
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서

SPANISH

*Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
 Tómame, cámbiame, lléname, úsame.
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.*

Both the words and the music of this prayer-song were written by a Presbyterian minister from Tarboro, North Carolina. The words were initially inspired by Jeremiah 18:1-6; a friend helped him set them to music during an evangelistic meeting in Orlando, Florida, where the song was first sung.

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
LM

SERVICE MUSIC

here below; praise Holy Spirit ever more;

praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

157 I Danced in the Morning

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)
 F Dm Am Dm

1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but
 3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The
 4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. †

(Em) (A)
 Gm C

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They
 I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)
 F Dm Am Dm

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me, †

(Em) (A7) (G) (D)
 Gm C7 Bb F


Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came with me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die.
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the life of Christ, though written for this Shaker tune, has many similarities with the pre-Reformation carol "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." Such narrative carols were common both at Christmas and as part of medieval mystery plays.

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE


Refrain

(F#m) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)
Am Dm Am Dm F Dm




Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)
Gm C F Dm F C7 F



Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Gm C7 F B^b F



and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.