



# WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York  
February 18, 2024  
Service of Worship 10:00 am

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
The First Sunday in Lent



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** Poem James Southbridge

**Call to Worship** Fatmata Hilton

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in love. *Psalm 103:8*

**All: Let us worship God!**



**Opening Hymn #22** God of the Sparrow



**Prayer of Confession** Fatmata Hilton

One: Are you thirsty for grace? Are you hungry for mercy? *Isaiah 55:1*  
God is calling; come to the waters.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**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**

Fatmata Hilton

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**

Fatmata Hilton

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**Choral Anthem**

“O Love”

Music: Elaine Hagenberg  
Text: George Matheson (1842-1906)

**WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**



**Prayer for Illumination**

Fatmata Hilton

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**

Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."



**Psalm 25**

(Attached)

**Refrain (all): To you, O Lord, I lift up, I lift up my soul, my God.**

One: You ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth, for you are my God, and for you I will wait.

**Refrain (all)**

One: Good and upright is the Lord; he shows us the way.  
He guides the meek to justice, he teaches the humble to follow his ways.

**Refrain (all)**

One: Your way, O Lord, is kindness to those who are true.  
Your friendship is with those who love you; you reveal to them your Word.

**Refrain (all)**



**Scripture**

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

**Sermon**

Disarm

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Prayer Hymn #738**

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee (verses 1 & 2)

**Gathering Celebrations and Concerns**

**Prayer Hymn #738**

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee (verses 3 & 4)



**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.



Offering

Fatmata Hilton



Hymn #607

Doxology

Charge to the Congregation

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

## WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #833

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

Organ Suite: "In a Medieval Monastery" 6. Epilogue

Walker Baylor



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## 2024 CHURCH OFFICERS

### Session

*Leah Threatte, Clerk of Session*

2024: Nancy Holroyd, Susan Schell

2025: Ephraim Adjei, Peter McKee, Linore Southworth

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

### Deacons

*Mary Bullis and Dodie Seagle, Co-moderators*

2024: Ruthanne Brod, Cynthia Dwyer, Mabel McGraw

2025: Kelly Crisfield, Carolyn Smith

2026: Mary Bullis, Marie McClumpha, Dodie Seagle

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*Dixon Southworth, Vice President*

2024: David Adjei, Leif Hartmark, Laura Moody

2025: John Bossung

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

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John Fox, Grounds Maintenance

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# 22 God of the Sparrow

C Em Am Dm G

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the  
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the  
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the  
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the  
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the  
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the

C F E7 Am Em F Em

swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe  
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe  
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace  
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care  
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love  
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy

Am Dm Gsus G C

How does the crea - ture say Praise  
 How does the crea - ture cry Save  
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks  
 How does the crea - ture say Life  
 How does the crea - ture say Peace  
 How do your chil - dren say Home

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

## PSALM 25: TO YOU, O LORD

673

REFRAIN: *Simply* (♩ = 84-88) 1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All

To you, O Lord, I lift up, I lift up my soul, my God.

1. Your ways, O Lord, make  
2. ‡ Good and up - right

1. known to me; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth, for  
2. is the Lord; he shows us the way. He guides the meek to jus - tice, he

1. you are my God, and for you I will wait.  
2. teach - es the hum - ble to fol - low his ways.

VERSE 3: Cantor/Choir

3. Your way, O Lord, is kind - ness to those who are

3. true. Your friend - ship is with those who love you;

3. you re - veal to them your Word.

Text: Based on Psalm 25:1, 4-5, 8-10, 14; Scott Soper, b. 1961.  
Music: Scott Soper.  
Text and music © 1988, OCP. All rights reserved.



## 738 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee  
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move  
 3 Teach me thy pa - tience, still with thee  
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray

in low - ly paths of ser - vice free;  
 by some clear, win - ning word of love;  
 in clos - er, dear - er com - pa - ny,  
 far down the fu - ture's broad - ening way;

tell me thy se - cret; help me bear the  
 teach me the way - ward feet to stay, and  
 in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in  
 in peace that on - ly thou canst give, with

strain of toil, the fret of care.  
 guide them in the home - ward way.  
 trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.  
 thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

In honestly admitting the limits of human ability, this prayerful hymn does not seek a sense of God's presence for self-comfort but for strength and companionship in pursuing the tasks that God sets before us. The author specifically chose this tune to accompany his words.

607

# Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple

TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988  
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551  
Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg

OLD HUNDREDTH  
LM

SERVICE MUSIC

here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;

praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

# O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my  
2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my  
3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not  
4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not

wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that  
flick - ering torch to thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that  
close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and  
ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.  
in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.  
feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.  
from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.

TEXT: George Matheson, 1881, alt.  
MUSIC: Albert Lister Peace, 1884, alt.

ST. MARGARET  
8.8.8.8.6