

WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH The First Sunday in Lent

HHH

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.

HHH

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.

All: Let us worship God!

Psalm 103:8

Isaiah 55:1



Opening Hymn #22

Prayer of Confession

God of the Sparrow



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.

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.

Fatmata Hilton

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

HHH

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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

Trustees

John Bossung, President
Dixon Southworth, Vice President
2024: David Adjei, Leif Hartmark, Laura Moody
2025: John Bossung

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

CHURCH PROGRAM TEAM

CHURCH SUPPORT TEAM

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Lorraine Charboneau, Church Administrator office@wpcalbany.org

Kim Deal, Communications Manager communications@wpcalbany.org

Forrest Holroyd, Treasurer treasurer@wpcalbany.org

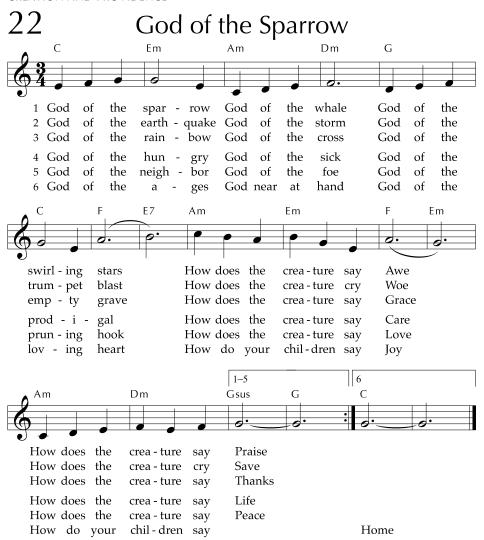
Joy L. Tallmadge, Associate Sexton

John Fox, Grounds Maintenance

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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



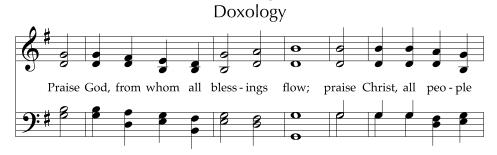
Text: Based on Psalm 25:1, 4-5, 8-10, 14; Scott Soper, b. 1961, Music: Scott Soper. Text and music © 1988, OCP. All rights reserved.

$738\,$ O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee



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.

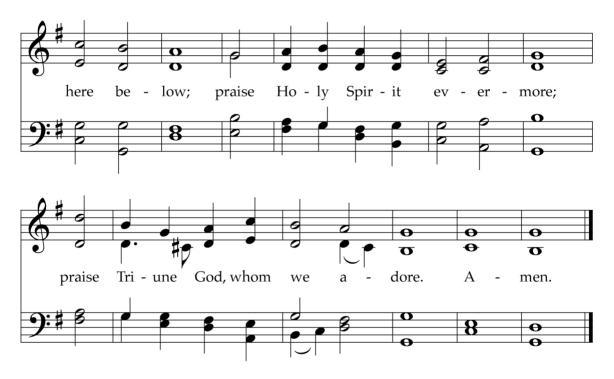
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



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

OLD HUNDREDTH

SERVICE MUSIC



O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833



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.