



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
February 25, 2024
Service of Worship 10:00 am

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Second 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 Verset XXIII in B-flat Major Leon Boëllmann

Call to Worship Peter McKee

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

All: Let us worship God!



Opening Hymn #182 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"



Prayer of Confession Peter McKee

One: Are you thirsty for grace? Are you hungry for mercy?
God is calling; come to the waters. *Isaiah 55:1*
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

Peter McKee

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

Peter McKee

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choral Anthem

“Love Consecrates the Humblest Act”

Robert J. Powell

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Peter McKee

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.**



Psalm 22:23-31

(one) You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

**(All) For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me
but heard when I cried to him.**

(One) From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**(All) The poor] shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!**

(One) All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.

**(All) For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.**

(One) To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

**(All) Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord
And proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.**



Scripture

Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Sermon

Deny

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #698

Take, O Take Me As I Am (sung twice)

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayer Hymn #698

Take, O Take Me As I Am (sung once)



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

Peter McKee



Hymn #607

Doxology

Installation of Elders

Statement on Ordination

Constitutional Questions

Questions to the Congregation (led by Leah Threatte, Clerk of Session)

Do we, the members of the church,
accept Nate as a Ruling Elder
chosen by God through the voice of this congregation
to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for him, to encourage him,
to respect his decisions, and to follow as he guides us,
serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Prayer of Installation

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #726

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

Postlude in D Minor

Johann Christian Heinrich Rinck



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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

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Joy L. Tallmadge, Associate Sexton

John Fox, Grounds Maintenance

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182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Each stanza here pairs an invitation from Jesus with a response from the narrator. These three invitations recall how Jesus welcomed those who were heavy laden (Matthew 11:28), offered living water (John 4:10-14), and identified himself as the light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5).

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody begins with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B-flat3, and C4. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B-flat2, and C3.

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody continues with a half note D4, followed by quarter notes E4, F4, and G4. The bass staff accompaniment continues with a half note D3, followed by quarter notes E3, F3, and G3.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

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 Tri-une God, whom we adore. Amen.

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)
 Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.