

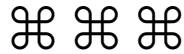


WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
March 3, 2024
Service of Worship 10:00 am

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Third 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 Prelude in A Minor Jaak Nikolaas Lemmens

Call to Worship Leah Threatte

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in love. *Psalm 103:8*
All: Let us worship God!



Opening Hymn #5 God the Sculptor of the Mountains



Prayer of Confession Leah Threatte

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

Leah Threatte

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

Leah Threatte

Words of Welcome

Leah Threatte

Choral Anthem

I am Light, I am Life, I am Love

Mary McDonald

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Leah Threatte

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 #61

Your Law, O Lord, Is Perfect

Attached



Scripture

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

The people then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The people then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #692

Spirit, Open My Heart (verse 1 & 2)

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayer Hymn #692

Spirit, Open My Heart (verse 3)

**Prayers of the People**

Leah Threatte

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**

Leah Threatte



Hymn #607

Doxology

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**Invitation to Communion**

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
 let those who have no money come and eat.

Isa. 55:1; Ps. 63:4-5

**God will satisfy our souls with a rich feast,
 and we will bless the Lord as long as we live.**

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
 in this dry and weary land.
 You set a table for us in the wilderness
 and provide for all our needs.

Even when we complain against you,
you feed us with bread from heaven.
When we quarrel and question your grace,
you give us water from a stone.

How can we keep silent?
Even dry bones in the valley of death
stand to sing your praise:

(Hymn #591)
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We give you thanks and praise for Jesus,
our way in the wilderness,
our companion in the desert.
He knows our hunger and thirst;
he gives us the bread of life to eat
and living water to drink.
He leads us beside still water
and prepares this table for us,
even in the presence of our enemies.
The cup of blessing overflows!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night before he met with death,
Jesus came to the table with those he loved.
He took bread, blessed and broke it,
And gave it to them, saying: Take, eat.
Whenever you do this, remember me.

In the same way he took and poured the cup,
Saying: Take and drink.
Whenever you do this, remember me.

Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table,
We celebrate Christ's death and resurrection until he comes again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Loving God, pour out your Holy Spirit
upon this bread, this cup, these people.
By the power of your Spirit

breathe life into our dust and hope into our bones.
Make us one flesh and one blood, one in the body of Christ.
Let us live to sing your praise and show your love to all,
until our wilderness wandering is over,
and we feast with you forever in the land that you have promised.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, O God, now and always. **Amen.**



SHARING BREAD AND CUP



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, gracious God,
for giving us bread for the journey
of these forty days.
As we travel on through the wilderness
help us to share your grace with others
and draw us ever closer to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #725

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Benediction

Rev. Joe Paparone

Postlude

Epilogue

Steven Scott



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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

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God the Sculptor of the Mountains 5



1 God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains, God the
 2 God the nui - sance of the Pha - raoh, God the
 3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the
 4 God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant, God the



mill - er of the sand, God the jewel - er of the
 cleav - er of the sea, God the pil - lar in the
 plant - er of the wheat, God the reap - er of the
 calm, de - ter - mined youth, God the ta - ble - turn - ing



heav - ens, God the pot - ter of the land:
 dark - ness, God the bea - con of the free:
 har - vest, God the source of all we eat:
 proph - et, God the res - ur - rect - ed truth:



you are womb of all cre - a - tion;
 you are fount of all de - liv - erance;
 you are host at ev - ery ta - ble;
 you are pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment;



we are form - less; shape us now.
 we are aim - less; lead us now.
 we are hun - gry; feed us now.
 we are search - ing; meet us now.

Despite the great sweep of these stanzas, each one ends by describing how our human condition needs God's help: formless, aimless, hungry, searching. Each of these adjectives is followed by a related three-syllable petition: shape us now, lead us now, feed us now, meet us now.

TEXT: John Thornburg, 1993, alt.

MUSIC: Amanda Husberg, 1995

Text © 1993 John Thornburg

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JENNINGS-HOUSTON

8.7.8.7.8.7

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

61 Your Law, O Lord, Is Perfect

(Psalm 19)

1 Your law, O Lord, is per - fect, the sim - ple mak - ing wise;
2 More to be sought than rich - es, your words are my soul's wealth;
3 My strength and my re - deem - er, law - giv - er and true light,

how pure are your com - mand - ments, en - light - en - ing my eyes!
their taste is sweet like hon - ey, im - part - ing life and health,
my words and med - i - ta - tions make wor - thy in your sight.

Celebrating God's law in this paraphrase of the second half of Psalm 19 may seem odd if "law" is thought of simply as a list of things not to do. But in Jewish understanding, the law is seen as a gift, because it provides the signposts that show how to live as the people of God.

692 Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)
 Refrain F B^b F B^b C7

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)
 Dm F/C B^b C7 Dm F/C Gm

liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)
 F B^b Gm7 F B^b F

and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

(D) (G) (D) (G)
 F B^b F B^b

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)
 C7 Dm F/C B^b C7

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
 sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (G2) (G)
 Dm Gm7 F B^b2 B^b

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
 Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

The pace and diversity of modern life often hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. This prayerful text to be open to such joys and pains draws on Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 in stanza one and echoes Jeremiah 31:33 in stanza two.

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.

591 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Refrain

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah!
hal - le -

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah!
Hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le -
hal - le -

lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!
Fine

TEXT: Ref., trad. liturgical text; stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1990
MUSIC: Caribbean melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1990; stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1990
Text and Music © 1990 WCRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
Music Arr. © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

O Jesus, I Have Promised 725

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C) (G) (C)
 E^b Cm7 A^b B^b E^b B^b E^b

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 O let me feel you near me! The world is ev - er near:
 3 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

(C) (Am7) (Dm) (G) (C) (G7) (C)
 E^b Cm7 Fm B^b E^b B^b7 E^b

be now and al - ways near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

(Am) (D) (G) (F) (G)
 Cm F B^b A^b B^b

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

(C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
 E^b Cm7 A^b B^b E^b Fm B^b E^b

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, draw still near - er and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, true guard - ian of my soul.
 now give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This hymn written by an Anglican clergyman for the confirmation of his children in Victorian times appears here in updated language that may help to make its challenging commitments more immediate. The tune is named for the province in Finland from which it comes.