



# WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York  
April 28, 2024  
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
The Fifth Sunday of Easter



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 Opening Prelude be the musical curtain through which we pass as we gather to worship together. Let the preparation we make together be prayerful.)*

**Prelude** They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love Peter Scholtes  
Arr. By: John F. Wilson

**Opening Sentences** John Bossung

The Lord is risen! Alleluia! *Luke 24:34*  
**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

 **Opening Hymn #366** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**Call to Confession** John Bossung

The Lord says: Come. *Revelation 22:17*  
Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.



**Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty God,  
in raising Jesus from the grave,  
you shattered the power of sin and death.  
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,  
bound by the ways that lead to death.  
We overlook the poor and the hungry,  
and pass by those who mourn;**

**we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,  
and indifferent to calls for peace;  
we despise the weak,  
and abuse the earth you made.**

**Forgive us, God of mercy.  
Help us to trust your power  
to change our lives and make us new,  
that we may know the joy of life abundant  
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

**(Time of silence)**

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

*Acts 2:17, 21*

Hear the good news of God's promise:  
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.  
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Passing The Peace**

John Bossung

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**Choral Anthem**

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**



**Prayer for Illumination**

Living God, with joy we celebrate  
the presence of your risen Word.  
Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit  
so that we may proclaim the good news  
of eternal and abundant life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



**Scripture Lesson**

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.

So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**Sermon**

Because God First Loved Us

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Prayer Hymn #628**

Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord (verses 1-3)

**Gathering Celebrations and Concerns**

**Prayer Hymn**

Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord (verses 1)



**Prayers of the People**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**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**

John Bossung



**Hymn #607**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**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**



Closing Hymn #692

Spirit, Open My Heart

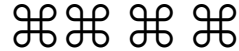
**Benediction**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**Postlude**

Fugue, or Voluntary

William Selby (1738-1798)



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- For more about Westminster's online communications, please contact us: [communications@wpcalbany.org](mailto:communications@wpcalbany.org)

## 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

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Pastor

[pastor@wpcalbany.org](mailto:pastor@wpcalbany.org)

Cell: 240-281-5005

Christopher Price, Music Director

[music@wpcalbany.org](mailto:music@wpcalbany.org)

Belinda Quaye, Director of Christian Education

[ChristianEd@wpcalbany.org](mailto:ChristianEd@wpcalbany.org)

Emma Mrowka, Organist

[organist@wpcalbany.org](mailto:organist@wpcalbany.org)

### CHURCH SUPPORT TEAM

Lorraine Charboneau, Church Administrator

[office@wpcalbany.org](mailto:office@wpcalbany.org)

CLE Commercial Services, Interior Cleaning

Kim Deal, Communications Manager

[communications@wpcalbany.org](mailto:communications@wpcalbany.org)

John Fox, Grounds Maintenance

Forrest Holroyd, Treasurer

[treasurer@wpcalbany.org](mailto:treasurer@wpcalbany.org)

Joy L. Tallmadge, Associate Sexton

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

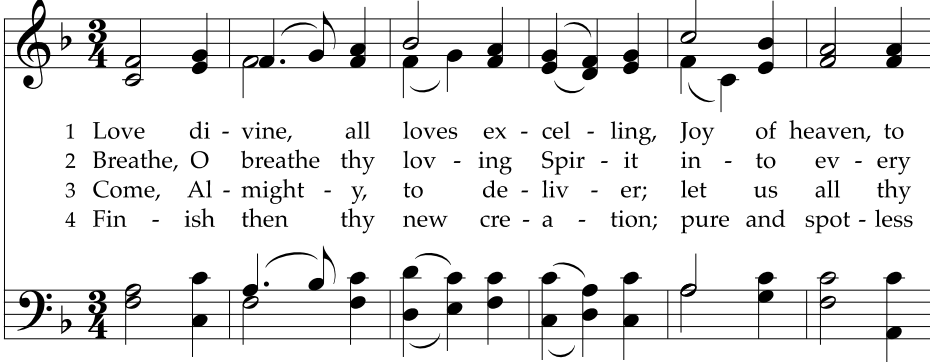
262 State Street (Mail to: 85 Chestnut Street)

Albany, New York 12210

Office: (518) 436-8544

Email: [office@wpcalbany.org](mailto:office@wpcalbany.org) website: [wpcalbany.org](http://wpcalbany.org)

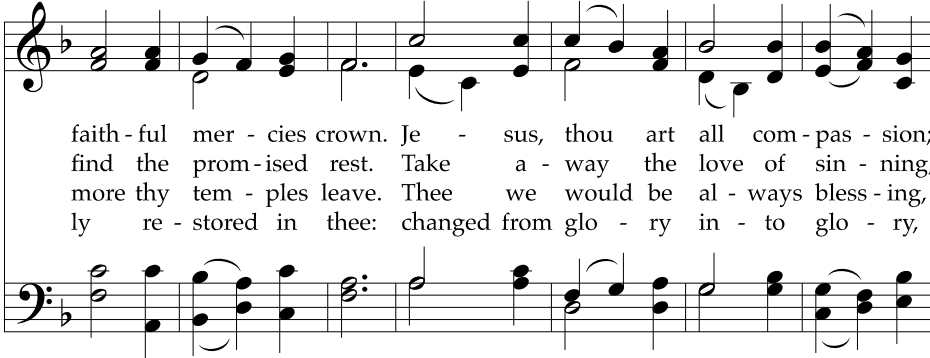
## 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to  
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;  
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means "delightful") gives us a foretaste of endless song.

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.



## 628 Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord

*Je louerai l'Éternel*

1 Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart. O  
 2 Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart. O  
 3 Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart. O

God, I will tell the won-ders of your ways, and glo-ri - fy your name.

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart. In  
 Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart. In  
 Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart. In

you I will find the source of all my joy. Al - le - lu - ia!

## FRENCH

*Je louerai l'Éternel de tout mon coeur,  
 je raconterai toutes tes merveilles,  
 je chanterai ton nom.*

*Je louerai l'Éternel de tout mon coeur,  
 je ferai de toi le sujet de ma joie.  
 Alleluia!*

This simple song based on Psalm 9:1-2 was created in the mid-1970s for a morning devotional of a group touring in the picturesque high Alps. Later it was incorporated into their programs and soon spread throughout Europe and the world, being translated into many languages.

# 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 HUNDRETH  
LM

SERVICE MUSIC

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

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

# 692 Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)  
 Refrain F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> C7

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

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

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

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

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

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.