



WESTMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

Albany, New York
May 5, 2024
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Sixth 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	Preludio Divertimento	John S. Dixon
Call to Worship (from Psalm 98)		Peter McKee

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done marvelous things.
God's right hand and holy arm have gotten him victory.

**All: The LORD has made known victory;
God has revealed vindication in the sight of the nations.**

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

**All: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the LORD.**

Leader: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.
Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD!



Opening Hymn #611

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

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

Peter McKee

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choral Anthem

By Our Love

arr. Mary McDonald

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 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Sermon

The Victory That Conquers the World

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #630

Fairest Lord Jesus (verses 1-2)

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayer Hymn #630

Fairest Lord Jesus (verses 3-4)



Prayers of the People

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

Peter McKee



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.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff and Elder Peter McKee

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.

In every time and every age, O God,
it is good and faithful that we give you thanks,
for your mercy is sure
and your steadfast love endures forever.
In your compassion you gave us Christ Jesus,
who sets us free from death
and leads us to life eternal.
And so, with all creation,
with all the needy and hungry ones,
with all those who have enough and plenty,
with creatures large and small,
with sun and moon and stars,
and with the saints of every age,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Hymn #591)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Blessed are you, O God, creator of all things.
By your power and love you continue
to deliver your people from bondage,
thwart the designs of evil,
show the way through the wilderness,
turn hardship into righteousness,
and reveal your hand upholding the just.
Blessed are you, O Christ, servant of the universe.

You came among us to feed and heal and teach,
to confound the haughty,
to confuse the deceivers,
to challenge the wrong-hearted,
and, in all these things,
to give hope to those who long for peace.

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

Blessed are you, O Spirit, giver of life.
You give us words when we have none;
you fill us with vision when we have the most need;
you give us voice to proclaim our faith in every hour.
Be our guide and teacher, today and always.

Come now, O Prince of Peace,
Spirit of Love,
Breath of Life.
Bring to all this hurting world the joy that Mary knew,
and teach us to proclaim with her,
"I have seen the Lord!"

In the unity of the Holy Trinity,
in gratitude for this great day of resurrection,
we praise you, God of all that is,
now and forever. Amen.



SHARING BREAD AND CUP

Hymn #699

Fill My Cup



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we give you thanks
that by the witness of your word
and the sharing of this meal
you have opened our hearts and eyes
to the presence of Christ among us.
Now send us forth from this place
by the power of your Spirit
to tell this good news to the world:
The Lord has risen indeed! **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #134

Joy to the World

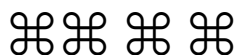
Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

Fanfare

Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)
Arr. Joseph H. Greener



Permission to reprint and stream the copyrighted music in this service is obtained from ONE LICENSE #A-700692, CCLI Streaming License #21525228 and/or CCLI Reprint #21525211. All rights reserved.

Stay in Touch with Westminster

- Visit our website: wpcalbany.org
- Like us on Facebook: [Westminster Presbyterian Church Albany](https://www.facebook.com/WestminsterPresbyterianChurchAlbany)
- Get weekly news email messages by providing a current email address to the church office at office@wpcalbany.org or calling (518) 436-8544
- For more about Westminster's online communications, please contact us: 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

2024: David Adjei, Leif Hartmark, Laura Moody

2025: John Bossung

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

CHURCH PROGRAM TEAM

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Pastor

pastor@wpcalbany.org

Cell: 240-281-5005

Christopher Price, Music Director

music@wpcalbany.org

Belinda Quaye, Director of Christian Education

ChristianEd@wpcalbany.org

Emma Mrowka, Organist

organist@wpcalbany.org

CHURCH SUPPORT TEAM

Lorraine Charboneau, Church Administrator

office@wpcalbany.org

CLE Commercial Services, Interior Cleaning

Kim Deal, Communications Manager

communications@wpcalbany.org

John Fox, Grounds Maintenance

Forrest Holroyd, Treasurer

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 website: wpcalbany.org

ADORATION

611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re- flect thy rays;
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.

Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pen-ing to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
 Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife.

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

630 Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Franz Liszt used this melody for a "Crusaders' March" in an oratorio, but this hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.

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.

699

Fill My Cup

Refrain

Fill my cup; let it o - ver - flow; fill my

cup; let it o - ver - flow; fill my cup; let it

The refrain of this gospel song by a well-known Presbyterian pastor and musician can be understood as a meditation on Psalm 23:5, while the stanzas reflect an updated and easily accessible interpretation of the prayer often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi (see no. 753).

TEXT and MUSIC: Isaiah Jones Jr., 1969

Text and Music © 1970 Davike Music Company, assigned 1986 Fricout Music Company

FILL MY CUP
8.7.8.7 with refrain

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

Fmaj7 Em7 Dm7 F C *Fine*

o - ver - flow; let it o - ver - flow with love.

C

1 Lord, let me be your in - stru - ment, spread - ing
2 It's my de - sire to live for you and to

F C G Em7

sun - shine in the land; let peo - ple see your
al - ways walk up - right; give me the strength to

Am7 Dm7 G² *to Refrain*

works in me; help me live the best I can.
face each day; stay with me through each dark night.

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.