



# WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York  
June 16, 2024  
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost



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**

A Father's Quiet Strength

Lani Smith



**Call to Worship**

Judy Hartley

One: This is the day that the Lord has made!

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: Let us worship God.



**Opening Hymn #23**

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

**Call to Confession**

Judy Hartley

Jesus says: Let anyone who is thirsty come to me. *John 7:37-38*

Out of the believer's heart  
shall flow rivers of living water.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.



**Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Judy Hartley

**All: Merciful God,  
We confess that we have sinned against you  
In thought, word, and deed,  
By what we have done,  
And by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you  
With our whole heart and mind and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,  
Help us to amend what we are,  
And direct what we shall be,  
That we may delight in your will  
And walk in your ways,  
To the glory of your holy name.**

(Time of silence)

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.  
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**All: Amen.**

**Response Hymn # 582**                      **Glory To God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**

**Passing the Peace**

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

## **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**



### **Prayer for Illumination**

One: God of All Power,  
Open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts with a spirit of wisdom and revelation.  
Help us to hear your voice, to see your ways, and to receive with joy your truth.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.



### **Scripture Lesson**

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeath of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."

Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD."

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."

Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."

He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

### Choral Anthem

In The Fathers Hands

Mary McDonald



### Scripture Lesson

Mark 4:26-34

[Jesus] also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

### Sermon

I Am a Promise

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Prayer Hymn #286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God (v. 1-2)

### Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

### Prayer Hymn #286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God (v. 3-4)



### Prayers of the People

## The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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

Judy Hartley

## 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 #250

In the Bulb, There Is a Flower

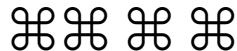
## Charge and Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

## Postlude

Foundation

Bonnie Barrett



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# God, You Spin the Whirling Planets 23

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D) (G)  
 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

1 God, you spin the whirl-ing plan - ets, fill the seas and  
 2 You have called us to be faith - ful in our life and  
 3 God, your word is still cre - at - ing, call - ing us to

(D) (A) (D) (Bm) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D)  
 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> Cm A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

spread the plain, mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, call forth  
 min - is - try. We re - spond in grate-ful wor-ship joined in  
 life made new. Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas where there's

(G) (D) (A) (D) (G) (D) (A)  
 A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>

sun - shine, wind, and rain. We, cre - at - ed in your im - age,  
 one com - mu - ni - ty. When we blur your gra - cious im - age,  
 work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion.

(D) (Bm)(F#m) (G)(A) (D) (G)  
 E<sup>b</sup> Cm Gm A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

would a true re - flec - tion be of your jus - tice,  
 fo - cus us and make us whole. Healed and strength - ened  
 Pol - ish us with lov - ing care. Thus, new crea - tures

(D) (G) (A) (D) (G) (Em) (D) (A) (D)  
 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> Fm E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

grace, and mer - cy and the truth that makes us free.  
 as your peo - ple, we move on - ward toward your goal.  
 in your im - age, we'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

This text was written for the 1979 National Meeting of United Presbyterian Women, whose theme, "In the Image of God," is variously considered here as reflection, focus, distortion, and polishing for clarity. The words are well set to an anonymous 19th-century American tune.

TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1978  
 MUSIC: American melody, 1830; harm. Richard Proulx, 1986  
 Text © 1980 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)  
 Music Harm. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

PLEADING SAVIOR  
 8.7.8.7.D  
 (alternate harmonization, 717)  
 (alternate tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN)

# 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)  
 B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
 2 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)  
 F B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)  
 C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)  
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.



# Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,  
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,  
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.  
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.  
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.  
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

TEXT: Edwin Hatch, 1878  
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM  
SM

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.

# In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

## Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) (Em)  
F Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)  
C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)  
F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)  
Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."  
Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.