



# WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York  
August 25, 2024  
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost



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

"Where'er You Walk" from *Semele*

G.F. Handel

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 #375

Shall We Gather at the River

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

Judy Hartley

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

## Special Music

“Largo” from *Xerxes*

G.F. Handel

## 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

Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power; put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm.

Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Sermon

“Protected”

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

Prayer Hymn #840

When Peace Like a River



**Gathering Celebrations and Concerns**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**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 #80**

You Shall Go Out with Joy

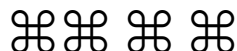
**Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

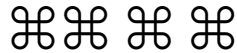
“Bourrée & March” from *Water Music Suite in D*

G.F. Handel



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**Note:** All of today's special music was composed by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759). Handel wrote in many genres, but is best known for his operas, oratorios, and orchestral suites. Today's selections were arranged for Celtic harp and flute by Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher. Today's special music selections are brought to you by *Stringwynde* presenting Melanie Chirignan on flute and Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher on harp.



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2026: John Bossung, Kate Gallagher, Felicia Kollie-Gambles, Nathan Powers

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2025: Kelly Crisfield, Carolyn Smith

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2025: John Bossung

2026: Pete Seagle, 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)

# 375 Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,  
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,  
3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;  
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er; soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.  
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

*Refrain*

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;

gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

A Baptist pastor wrote this hymn while seated at his parlor organ. Created as an alternative to gloomy "river of death" hymns, it is a celebration of the "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1 KJV).

# 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.



# 840 When Peace like a River

## It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
 3 He lives: O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought. My  
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I  
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*

It is well with my soul;  
 It is well with my soul;

This text is a remarkable expression of faith born of grief. The author, an active Presbyterian layman who had just lost four daughters in a tragic shipwreck, wrote it while sailing to Paris to meet his wife, who had survived. The tune was named for the ship that sank.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

it is well; it is well with my soul.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Trusting in the Promises of God". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics "it is well; it is well with my soul." are written below the treble staff. The music ends with a double bar line.

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 Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

# You Shall Go Out with Joy 80

## The Trees of the Field

Em B7 Em B7 Em

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;

G C G D

the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be -

B N.C. Em B7 Em

fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the

B7 Em B7 Em B7 Em

trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

D7 N.C. G C G D

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;

\* x x D7 G D7 G

the trees of the field will clap their hands;

x x C G D

the trees of the field will clap their hands

x x B7 Em B7 Em

while you go out with joy.

\*Clap hands.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 55:12, which is generally understood to describe a "second exodus," this time from Babylon rather than from Egypt. This release of God's people and their return to their own land gives rise to a joyful celebration involving all creation.