



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
September 15, 2024
Service of Worship 10:00 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT WORSHIP
The Seventeenth 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 Prelude be the musical curtain through which we pass as we gather to worship together.
Let the preparation we make together be prayerful.)*

Prelude

Adagio

Reginald W. Martin



Call to Worship (Psalm 95:1-2)

Susan Schell

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord
and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

**All: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,
singing joyful songs of praise.**



Opening Hymn #174

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom



Prayer of Confession

Susan Schell

One: Let us now confess our sins, trusting in God's boundless mercy and grace.

**All: Merciful God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor
and nation against nation.**

We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.

Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

(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

Moment for Mission

The African Missions Team

Choral Anthem

Open Thou Mine Eyes

John Rutter

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Susan Schell

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

Proverbs 1:20-33, New Revised Standard Version

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

"How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease without dread of disaster."

Sermon

"Outside Voices"

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #470

There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers from State Street

Ned Trudeau



Prayers of the People

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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Susan Schell

Offertory Music

Doxology (Hymn #609)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Charge to the Congregation

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Hymn #307

God of Grace and God of Glory

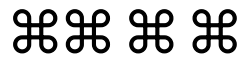
Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

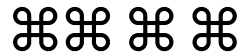
Postlude

Matins

Lani Smith



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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

2024: David Adjei, Leif Hartmark, Laura Moody

2025: John Bossung

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

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Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom 174



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
 2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
 3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who



earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
 mar - ket-place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
 seek re - birth. Spir - it-guide and close com-pan - ion,



for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
 full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
 bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -




path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
 root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em-brace.
 come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

Drawing on numerous scriptural images of Wisdom (Greek: *Sophia*), especially in Proverbs, this text offers an alternative perspective on Trinitarian theology. The Wisdom tradition has played a role in Christian mysticism for centuries, as witnessed by the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

582


Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B^b F B^b F B^b 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^b E^b B^b 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.

PRAYER

470 There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

Refrain

Dm All *Gm* *C* *F*

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for

Bb *Gm7* *A* *A7*

you to re - veal your - self to us.

Dm *Gm* *C* *F*

There is a long-ing in our hearts for love we

Bb *Gm7* *A7* *Dm* (*hold last time*) *Fine*

on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All

Dm *Gm* *C7* *F* *Bb* *Gm*

1 For jus - tice, for free - dom, for mer - cy:
 2 For wis - dom, for cour - age, for com - fort:
 3 For heal - ing, for whole-ness, for new life:
 4 Lord save us, take pit - y, Light in our

A *A7* *Dm* *Gm7* *C7* *F*

hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:
 hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:
 hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:
 dark - ness. We call you; we wait:

Bb *Gm7* *A* *Dm* *to Refrain*

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

The refrain that frames this sung prayer describes why we pray, and the stanzas indicate what we pray for. These requests are not for possessions but for qualities and conditions we hope for in the world around us, and they emerge from the changing circumstances of our lives.

609 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

D A D

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures

Bm A D G D Bm E A D

high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise

D

God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it

G A D Em A Bm

one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

Em D G A Em G A D

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.