



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
October 6, 2024
Service of Worship 10:00 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
World Communion Sunday

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

Prelude in E Minor

Christian Heinrich Rinck



Call to Worship

One: We gather from the west to the east,
from the south to the north,
to celebrate the God of peace
who accompanies us in our acts of peace.
This God of peace accompanies us
in each and every circumstance around us.

All: We praise God's name! Amen!



Opening Hymn #509

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



Prayer of Confession

One: Faced with God's goodness we recognize our failings.
In the knowledge of God's mercy,
we dare tell the truth about ourselves and our world.
In the confidence of God's children let us confess our sins.

Leah Threatte

**All: Gracious Lord, creator of this universe,
in your generosity you have given us
a world of abundance and diversity,
yet we live guided by greed and selfishness.
We confess that we have defaced your creation
and poisoned our environment
through our consumerist behavior and for personal gain.**

In Christ, you made us brothers and sisters
and intended for us to be united,
and yet we have built walls to separate us
from those who are different from us.

You gave us wisdom and creativity
and we have used those to trick each other
and to develop weapons of destruction and death.

You gave us laws to order our lives
and we have abused them
to take revenge and punish our enemies.
We love war rather than strive for peace.
We ignore the poor and the weak
and honored the rich and powerful.

In all this we have not lived according to your will.
Forgive us, Lord, for daring to boast in our human achievements
and for failing to recognize that you alone are worthy of praise.
In your mercy, forgive us our sins.

(Time of silence)

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: God accepted us simply because of our faith in Christ,
through whom our sins were forgiven.

May he help us to continue to sow seeds of peace to those who are near and far.

All: Amen.

Response Hymn #582

Glory To God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Passing The Peace

Leah Threatte

Words of Welcome

Leah Threatte

Choral Anthem

In His Hands

Tom Osiek

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.

Leah Threatte



Scripture Lesson

Exodus 16:1-7

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim and came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?"



Scripture Lesson

John 6:51-58

[Jesus said,] "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day, for my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them.

Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which the ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

Sermon

"Living Manna"

Elena Delhagen

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #851

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God (sung 2 times)

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Elena Delhagen

Prayer Hymn #851

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God



Prayers of the People

Elena Delhagen

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

Leah Threatte

Offertory Music

Thy Table I Approach

Jan Bender

Hymn #328

Praise God, All You Nations (Da n'ase)

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

This is the table to which Jesus invites us!
Let us participate joyfully!

God-planted seeds now germinate
A tree of life, an orchard bearing fruit
Such is nature, abundant life budding,
And Jesus sets the table, invites us to dine.

Water into wine, land where bread is born,
A people on the path of perfect communion.



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.

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high,
for in the communion of your love
Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ.
Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us,
with earth, sea, and sky, we sing to you.
With brothers and sisters, east and west, we sing to you.
And with our loved ones, separate from us now,
who yet in this mystery are close to us,
we join in the song of your unending greatness:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Words Of Institution

Leader: Among friends, gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread and broke it, and said, "This is my body, broken for you."

Later he took a cup of wine and said,
"This is the cup of the new covenant,
the new relationship with God, which is possible for each of you.
Take it, all of you, to remember me."

Along with Christians around the world and throughout time, we say those words as we come to this table.
We remember Jesus' last supper.
We remember his betrayal.
We proclaim his death.

This table is a lament for the suffering and brokenness in the world,
but it is also a sign of new life.

Jesus sat at the table on the night of his last supper, knowing that he was about to die.
But he knew that his death would not be the end of the story,
for him or for the new community that had formed around them.
"Whenever you do this, remember me," he told them.
He trusted that there would be more tables,
more gatherings with bread and wine shared among his disciples.
On the very night when they would scatter in fear,
he proclaimed that they would gather again in celebration.

**All: We come to this table to proclaim hope,
to gather in the midst of a world that pulls us apart,
to find abundance in a world that focuses on scarcity,
to find new life in a world that sees death as the end.**

Prayer Of Consecration *(from the Presbyterian Church of Ghana Book of Worship)*

Leader: In remembrance of the work and passion of our Savior Jesus Christ we Your servants have set forth this memorial of which He has commanded us. We humbly ask You to send down your Holy Spirit to sanctify both us and these Your own gifts of bread and wine, that in partaking in the bread we shall be sharing in the communion of the body of Christ and in drinking from the cup we shall be sharing in the communion of the blood of Christ. We pray that as we receive these elements we shall also receive all the benefits that are ours through Jesus Christ for our spiritual nourishment and growth in Grace and to the glory of Your most holy name.

We give thanks for our fellowship with all Your church in heaven and on earth, and pray that You fulfill in us and in all creation the purpose of Your redeeming love through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory be unto You O Father Almighty now and forever more.
Amen.



Sharing Bread And Cup

***Please partake of the bread when you receive it; please hold the cup so that we may partake together.*



Prayer After Communion

**All: God of abundance,
With this bread of life and cup of salvation
You have united us with Christ,
Making us one with all your people.**

**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
That we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
And continue forever in the risen life
Of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Hymn #526

Let us Talents and Tongues Employ

Benediction

Elena Delhagen

Postlude

Voluntary in D minor

William Herschel



We welcome Elena Delhagen to our pulpit this morning! Elena is an ordained deacon at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church in Guilderland, NY, and a Candidate for Ordination in Albany Presbytery. She is a resident chaplain at Albany Medical Center, where she provides spiritual care and support for people of all faiths and no faith. She lives in Niskayuna with her family and enjoys reading, writing, and baking in her free time.

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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

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

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly 509

1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel - come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil - der - ness and wan - dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

The United Church of Canada minister who wrote this text was introduced to shape note tunes at the 1990 Hymn Society conference in Charleston, South Carolina. Afterwards she vacationed with friends nearby and worked out this text while humming this tune as she walked up and down the beach.

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.

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God 851

Woza nomthwalo wakho

Leader

(no.) Come, bring your bur - dens; O

All

Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your
 Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom -

come, bring your bur - dens; O come, bring your bur - dens.

bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for
 thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho U -

(except last time)

Je - sus will nev - er say

Je - sus will nev - er say no.
 ye - s'a - ka - so - za - thi hayi.

A great strength of music from southeastern Africa is that it usually emerges from communal life, and in singing such songs we unite our sung prayers with those of the people who created them. This one is based on the singing of the Mooiplaas congregation in South Africa.

Praise God, All You Nations 328

Da n'ase
(Psalm 117)



Praise God, all you na - tions. Peo - ple of God, sing praise!
Da n'a - se! Da n'a - se! Da On - ya - me a - se!



Praise God, all you na - tions. Peo - ple of God, sing praise:
Da n'a - se! Da n'a - se! Da On - ya - me a - se!



God's love is great and en - dures for - ev - er.
Ef - ia - se o - ye n'a n'a - do - e do - e so.



Praise God, all you na - tions. Peo - ple of God, sing praise!
Da n'a - se! Da n'a - se! Da On - ya - me a - se!

This paraphrase of Psalm 117 comes from Ghana and was originally created in the Twi language. Paradoxically, this shortest of all psalms is universal in scope, which makes it especially appropriate to sing in the words and music of people from another part of the world.

530 One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of



all, one cup of bless - ing which we bless.



And we, though man-y, through-out the



earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or
 2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the
 3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and



free, wom - an or man, no more.
 works, one in the Lord of all.
 grown, gath - ered to one, for all.

This Lord's Supper text is based on various Scriptures (1 Corinthians 10:16–17, Galatians 3:28, and 1 Corinthians 12:1–31) as well as imagery from the *Didache*, a significant Christian document from the early 2nd century, about scattered grain united in the eucharistic bread.

526 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: bread is bro - ken; the wine is poured;
 sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:




Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain;
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!



earth can breathe a - gain; pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Maracas and other rhythm instruments may be used. 

This "communion calypso" (as the author called it) affirms the continuing presence of Christ both in the sacramental meal and in the lives of Christians. Because this text was written to fit a pre-existing tune, it has a rather telegraphic style that encourages pondering.