



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
March 24, 2024
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Palm Sunday/Passion 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 Welles Room located on the floor below the sanctuary on the Chestnut Street side of the building. You'll get there by stairs that 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.)



Opening Sentences (Psalm 118:26)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Proclamation of the Entrance into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11, read by Andre Ashburn

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."



Opening Hymns

#196 All Glory, Laud, and Honor
 #198 Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

Words of Welcome & Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choir Anthem

Hosanna to the King

Kevin Memly

Prayer of Confession

Sue Schell

One: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (*1 John 1: 8, 9*). Please join me in our Prayer of Confession.

God, forgive us the many ways we are swept up by our passions and the passions of others. We forget who we are and whose we are. We overlook how quickly we move from shouts of "Hosanna" to shouts of "Crucify Him."

All: Lord have mercy.

One: Forgive us our addictions to power and to might. Our controlling actions limit the freedom of others and build walls, not bridges. We believe ourselves invincible and prove it at the expense of others. We give up those we love to fulfill our cravings for more.

All: Lord have mercy.

One: Forgive us for remaining anonymous when we know others are being abused. Forgive us when we fail to step out in defense of the poor, the weak and the innocent. And when we fail to pray for the rich, the powerful and the misguided, forgive us.

All: Lord have mercy.

One: Forgive us when we deny your Law, when we deny your very existence, when we claim by our words or with our actions that we don't know you. Our rational minds wrestle with our faithful hearts and we lose touch with our deep cellular knowing of You.

All: Lord have mercy.

One: God, collectively we turn our back on you and in the process, deny your kingdom. We move with the crowd. But there are also sins that are ours alone. In deep silence, we lift these to you, and we seek to turn toward you, repentant and lost, but with confidence in your love and your grace.

Time of Silence

Declaration of Forgiveness

Sue Schell

One: I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

Psalm 31:14-16

All: My times are in your hand;

deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

One: Friends, no matter how far we have wandered, God invites us to return.

This is the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

Passing the Peace

Sue Schell

Choral Anthem

Father Forgive Them (Seven Last Words)

Michael Trotta

Sermon

“Fight Like Jesus”

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Scripture

Mark 15:1-15, read by Kris Wilhelm

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so."

Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom.

Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Scripture

Mark 15:16-21, read by Felicia Kollie-Gambles

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Choral Anthem

Kyrie Eleison (Seven Last Words)

Michael Trotta

Scripture

Mark 15:22-32, read by Leah Threatte

Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Scripture

Mark 15:33-39, read by Ervin Ashburn

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Choral Anthem

Into Your Hands, I Surrender My Soul (Seven Last Words)

Michael Trotta

Prayers of the People

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Closing Hymn #828

More Love to Thee, O Christ

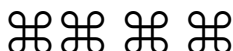
Charge and Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Closing Postlude

Palm Sunday

Robert J. Hughes



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: <https://wpcalbany.org>
- Like us on Facebook: [Westminster Presbyterian Church Albany](#)
- 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

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 and Leif Hartmark, Co-chairs

2024: David Adjei, Leif Hartmark, Laura Moody

2025: John Bossung

2026: Pete Seagle, Dixon Southworth, 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

belindaquaye@wpcalbany.org

Emma Mrowka, Organist

organist@wpcalbany.org

CHURCH SUPPORT TEAM

Lorraine Charboneau, Church Administrator

office@wpcalbany.org

Kim Deal, Communications Manager

communications@wpcalbany.org

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 Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King!

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! 198

1 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the
 2 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
 4 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly

tribes ho - san - na cry; thy hum - ble beast pur -
 pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs
 an - gels in the sky look down with sad and
 pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to

sues its road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
 now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 mor - tal pain; then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

This 19th-century Palm Sunday text is better understood as the reflections of someone standing outside the event rather than as coming from those participating in the actual procession. This poignant text is set to a tune written especially for it later in the same century.

828 More Love to Thee, O Christ

1 More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!
 2 Once earth - ly joy I craved, sought peace and rest.
 3 Then shall my lat - est breath whis - per thy praise;

Hear thou the prayer I make on bend - ed knee.
 Now thee a - lone I seek; give what is best.
 this be the part - ing cry my heart shall raise.

This is my ear - nest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee;
 This all my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;
 This still its prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;

more love to thee, more love to thee!

Perhaps because this prayer-poem by the wife of a leading 19th-century Presbyterian minister grew out of her own physical and emotional suffering, it has continued to speak to many people in similar distress. It is set here to the tune created for its first printing in a hymnal.