



WESTMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

Albany, New York
April 14, 2024
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Third Sunday of Easter



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 Elevation Marcel Dupre

Opening Sentences Beth Coombe

The Lord is risen! Alleluia! *Luke 24:34*
Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

 **Opening Hymn #249** Because You Live, O Christ

Call to Confession Beth Coombe

The Lord says: Come. *Revelation 22:17*
Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.



Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God,
in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry,
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,**

and indifferent to calls for peace;
we despise the weak,
and abuse the earth you made.

Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power
to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

(Time of silence)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Acts 2:17, 21

Hear the good news of God's promise:
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

Passing The Peace

Beth Coombe

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choral Anthem

God So Loved The World

John Stainer

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Living God, with joy we celebrate
the presence of your risen Word.
Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit
so that we may proclaim the good news
of eternal and abundant life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Scripture Lesson

Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Sermon

"Peace Be With Us"

Rev. Barbara Asempa

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #753

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns



Prayers of the People

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

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

Beth Coombe



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

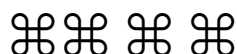
Benediction

Rev. Barbara Asempa

Postlude

March d'Eglise

Claude Delvincourt



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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

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, Chair

2024: David Adjei, Leif Hartmark, Laura Moody

2025: John Bossung

2026: Pete Seagle (Secretary), Dixon Southworth (Vice President), Joy L. Tallmadge, Peter Wrede

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249 Because You Live, O Christ

1 Be-cause you live, O Christ, the gar - den of the world has come to
 2 Be-cause you live, O Christ, the spir - it bird of hope is freed for
 3 Be-cause you live, O Christ, the rain-bow of your peace will span cre -

flow - er; the dark-ness of the tomb is flood - ed with your
 fly - ing; our ca - ges of de - spair no lon - ger keep us
 a - tion; the col - ors of your love will draw all hu - man -

Refrain

res - ur - rec - tion pow - er.
 closed and life - de - ny - ing. The stone has rolled a - way and death can -
 kind to ad - o - ra - tion.

not im - pris - on! O sing this Eas - ter day, for Je - sus Christ has

This New Zealand author's text contains no familiar images of springtime to bolster its message, because Easter in the Southern Hemisphere comes in autumn. This hymn resulted both from her dissatisfaction with existing hymns and from her love of this exuberant Dutch tune.

JESUS CHRIST: RESURRECTION

ris - en, has ris - en, has ris - en, has ris - en!

The image shows a musical score for a vocal piece. It consists of two staves: a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. The lyrics 'ris - en, has ris - en, has ris - en, has ris - en!' are written below the vocal line, with a long dash under the final 'ris' and 'en!'.

753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis

D Bm A7 D Em A7

1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It

D Bm G Em A7

there is ha - tred, let me bring your love. Where
 there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
 is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned, in

Em A7 Em7 A7

there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord, and
 there is dark - ness, on - ly light, and
 giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, and in

Em A7 D 1 2, 4 (Fine)

where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.
 dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

G Em D Bm

3 O, Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so

Em A7 D A7 D D7

much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Though popular opinion credits this prayer to Francis of Assisi, the earliest known printing was in a French religious magazine in 1912. Yet that gentle saint's spirit seems evident in these words, a quality that has spurred many paraphrases and musical settings such as this one.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Musical notation for the first line of the song. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and a quarter rest. The lyrics are "un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be". Chords are indicated above the staff: G, Em, F#m, and Bm.

Musical notation for the second line of the song. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of quarter notes: C5, D5, E5, and a quarter rest. The lyrics are "loved as to love with all my soul." Chords are indicated above the staff: E, E7, A, E, A, and A7. The text "to Stanza 4" is written above the final chord.

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.