



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
August 16, 2026
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Twelfth 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. After worship, please join us as we continue our fellowship at our coffee hour.

** indicates an invitation to stand as you are able*



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude



Call to Worship

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

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 #664**

Morning Has Broken

Call to Confession

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

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)

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

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)

Hymn #422

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Assurance of Forgiveness

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

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

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

Words of Welcome

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

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

Deuteronomy 5:12-19

“ ‘Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

“ ‘Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

“ ‘You shall not murder. Neither shall you commit adultery. Neither shall you steal.

Special Music

Eugene Sit, piano



Scripture Lesson

Matthew 12:1-8

At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.” He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? How he entered the house of God, and they ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the

temple break the Sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

Sermon

"Sabbath: A Palace of Time"

Rev. Gretchen Elmendorf

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #470

There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns



Prayers of the People

Rev. Gretchen Elmendorf

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

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

Offertory Music

***Hymn #710**

We Lift Our Voices

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



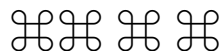
***Closing Hymn #772**

Live Into Hope

***Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Gretchen Elmendorf

Postlude



We welcome Rev. Gretchen Elmendorf back to our pulpit this morning! Rev. Elmendorf has ministered for over 20 years in United Church of Christ churches in Massachusetts and New York in ecumenical and interfaith settings. An environmental justice advocate, she is serving with the New York Council of Churches' Environmental Task Force and Climate Reality, Capitol Region Chapter. She earned a Masters of Divinity from the same school as Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff -- Harvard Divinity School -- where she also ministered at Memorial Church. She is currently a member of Journey UCC Church in Albany and the Committee on Ministry of the Hudson Mohawk Association of the NYUCC.

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2026 CHURCH OFFICERS

Session

Leah Threatte, Clerk of Session

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

2027: Nancy Holroyd, Nate Powers, Susan Schell

2028: Ephriam Adjei, Jessica Chamberlain, Willie White

Deacons

Carolyn Smith, Chair

2026: Marie McClumpha, Dodie Seagle

2027: Lily Mercogliano Easton, Maxine Quaye

2025: Shernette Grant, Ruth Mendoza, Julia Haywood-Dadzie, Carolyn Smith

Trustees

David Nti Adjei, Chair

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

2027: David Nti Adjei, Fatmata Hilton, Mark Manieson

2028: Jeramias Castañeda, Kelly Crisfield, Laura Moody

CHURCH PROGRAM TEAM

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Moses Kunda, LaundroZone LLC, Interior Cleaning

Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher

Assistant to the Music Director

Allison Rider, Financial Assistant

Eugene Sit, Assistant Treasurer

Joy L. Tallmadge, Associate Sexton

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