



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
October 4, 2026
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.

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. There's also a QR code on the card if you'd rather use your phone!
- **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

** Indicates an invitation to stand as you are able.*

Prelude

During the Prelude, we invite you to sit and quiet your body and mind as we prepare to worship together.

Call to Worship

Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher

One: Churches gather today in the Americas and Asia,
Africa and Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific Islands at the table of our Lord.

All: Together we manifest sitting together in the realm of God.

One: How good it is when people live in unity and peace.

All: Amen! Let it begin here as we worship God.



***Opening Hymn #475**

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Call to Confession

Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher

One: We come acknowledging we do not always live in unity and peace with God and those we live and work among. Nevertheless, we come asking knowing God listens and is merciful. Let us confess our sins.



Prayer of Confession

Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher

All: God of mercy, we confess to not seeing your love for all the world.

Too easily do we adopt prejudices and discrimination

against people and nations

that break Jesus' prayer for unity,

and the peace his Spirit makes possible.

Forgive us.

**By your mercy, with your love in our hearts,
lead us to see our lives and what we do in our world as you do;
in faithfulness to Christ Jesus. Amen.**

(Time of silence)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher

One: As far as the east is from the west, so great is God's mercy to those who seek it.
Friends, through one who died to free us from all that separates us from God and each other,
I declare in Christ you are forgiven to live in God's unity and peace.

All: Amen.

***Response Hymn #582**

Glory To God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

***Passing The Peace**

Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher

Words of Welcome

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher

One: God, speak to us. Lead us into faithful paths by what we hear you saying to us.

All: Amen.



Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 25:6–9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Choral Anthem

Behold the Sacrifice of Love

Luke Mayernik

Behold the sacrifice of love. Receive his Body and his Blood.
The Bread of Heaven come to earth like the child of Virgin birth.

Behold the sacrifice of love. Behold the sacrifice of love. Behold.

The wine – the Blood of Christ outpoured; This is the Essence of our Lord.
Come taste eternity complete, Christ, the Lamb of God, we meet.
Behold the sacrifice of love. Behold the sacrifice of love. Behold.

And through the ages we press on in every joy and sorrow drawn.
Each generation, we are on. Towards the altar now we come.
Behold the sacrifice of love. Behold the sacrifice of love. Behold..

So like the stone on Easter Day, hearts open – freed from Death's decay –
receive his Body and his Blood in this sacrifice of love.
Behold the sacrifice of love. Behold the sacrifice of love. Behold.



Scripture Lesson

Philippians 3:17-21

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Sermon

A Colony of Heaven

Rev. Jim Reisner

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Rev. Jim Reisner



Prayers of the People

Rev. Jim Reisner

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

Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher

Offertory

On Each Continent We Worship

Victor C. Johnson

On each continent we worship, breaking bread and sharing wine.
Children of a common Father tasting grace while marking time.

Nourished by Christ's blood and body though diverse as we can be,
on this holy day we gather mindful of our unity.

On each continent we worship to proclaim that Christ is King.
Borders blur as anthems echo with the faith-filled words we sing.

In all corners of Christ's kingdom we proclaim his majesty.
On this holy day we gather mindful we are family.

On each continent we worship one in mind and one in heart.
Children of a common Father, each a necessary part
of the whole that God intended to achieve his kingdom come.

On this holy day we gather mindful that the church is one.



***Hymn #328**

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

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!
This is our Lord's Table. Our Savior invites all who trust him
to come together and share what he has prepared for us.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

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 God our thanks and praise.

Almighty God, you have filled heaven and earth with your presence and glory.

You have called the people of earth to live trusting you.

We praise you that you have gathered this day
celebrants from around the world to be blessed

with these, your good gifts of the bread and the cup.

May your mercy be known throughout the world as we gather here at your table.

We sing our thanks:

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!

God in heaven and on earth, we thank you for Jesus Christ,
who shared our common life, suffered, died, and rose again

to be known in the breaking of bread.
Remembering this, we celebrate anew the supper of the Lord,
a new covenant radiantly extended to embrace us all.
We pray by the presence of your Holy Spirit you will transform us.
In eating this bread and drinking from this cup
in the company of your people past, present, and yet to come,
may we share the eternal life of Christ.

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

In remembrance of the work and passion of our Savior Jesus Christ, we your servants have set forth this memorial of which Jesus 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.

Words of Institution

On the evening before his death, gathered with his disciples,
Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to God, broke it,
Saying, "This is my body, broken for you."
Take, eat, do this remembering me.

After the meal, he took a cup of wine and said,
"This is the cup of the new covenant, sealed by my blood,
For the forgiveness of sins.
Drink this, all of you, remembering me.

Together we affirm:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Sharing Bread and Cup

Communion Hymn #527

Eat This Bread

Prayer after Communion *(from the Presbyterian Church of Ghana Book of Worship)*

**All: 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 God Almighty,
now and forever more. Amen.**

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME

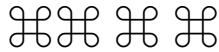


***Closing Hymn #317**

In Christ There Is No East or West

Postlude

During the Postlude, we invite you to either sit and listen or stand and greet your neighbors.



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- 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

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

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Assistant to the Music Director

Allison Rider, Financial Assistant

Eugene Sit, Assistant Treasurer

Joy L. Tallmadge, Sunday Sexton

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