



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
July 19, 2026
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Eighth 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.



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

A Cricket Sang and Set the Sun

Blake Tyson
(for marimba solo)



Call to Worship

Margaret Randall

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 #15

All Creatures of Our God and King (verses 1, 2, 3 & 6)

Call to Confession

Margaret Randall

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)

Margaret Randall

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

Margaret Randall

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

Margaret Randall

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidof

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Margaret Randall

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

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place--and I did not know it!" And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Special Music

Invention No. 8

J.S. Bach; Arr. Brian Slawson
(for vibraphone and marimba duet)



Scripture Lesson

Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Sermon

"Receiving Prayer as a Gift"

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Prayers from State Street

Ned Trudeau



Prayers of the People

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

Margaret Randall

Offertory Music

We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer

Old Dutch Melody
Arr. Cindy Berry

Hymn #710

We Lift Our Voices

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

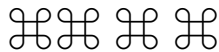
Charge and Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

Adam Hopper

Ghost Garden
(for marimba solo)



Meet our guest artists:

Andrew Janack (vibraphone) is a freelance percussionist and drum set artist in the Capital Region of New York and New England. He has performed with the Albany, Berkshire, and Schenectady Symphonies, and is currently a member of The Capital Region Wind Ensemble and the Schenectady Symphony. He has also played percussion for several Broadway national tours at Proctors Theatre in Schenectady, New York including West Side Story and most recently Cinderella.

Mr. Janack is a band director in the Saratoga Springs City School District in Saratoga Springs, New York. He is also an adjunct faculty member teaching percussion and percussion ensembles at Schenectady County Community College.

Erebus Reinhardt will join Mr. Janack on marimba.

About the piano arranger:

Cindy Berry was born in Houston, Texas in 1949, and started picking out melodies on her aunt's piano when she was five years old. At age six, she started taking piano lessons from her church organist. She started writing original songs as a teenager. Since 1983, she has devoted about half of her writing time to choral anthems for adults and children, and half to arranging for piano. Her anthems, musicals, and piano collections are found in the catalogs of many major publishers.



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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

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Carolyn Smith, Chair

2026: Marie McClumpha, Dodie Seagle

2027: Lily Mercogliano Easton, Maxine Quaye

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

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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

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

Kim Deal, Communications Manager

communications@wpcalbany.org

John Fox, Exterior Maintenance

Forrest Holroyd, Treasurer

treasurer@wpcalbany.org

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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

85 Chestnut Street

Albany, New York 12210

Office: (518) 436-8544

Email: office@wpcalbany.org website: <https://wpcalbany.org>