

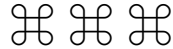


WESTMINSTER

————— Presbyterian Church —————

Albany, New York
September 20, 2026
Service of Worship 10:00 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Seventeenth 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!** 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.*

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

Prelude

The Procession

Cesar Franck, arr. By L.N. Porter

Call to Worship (Psalm 95:1-2)

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord
and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

**All: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,
singing joyful songs of praise.**



***Opening Hymn #305**

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!



Prayer of Confession

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

One: Let us now confess our sins, trusting in God's boundless mercy and grace.

**All: Merciful God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor
and nation against nation.**

**We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.**

**Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

(Time of silence)

Hymn #422

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Assurance of Forgiveness

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. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choral Anthem

All Creatures of Our God and King

arr. Robert Lawson Shaw

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n along, O praise Him, Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright, that givest us both warmth and light,
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

And everyone of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part, O sing ye, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One.
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; yet I cannot say which I will choose.

I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Sermon

"Side by Side"

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Song #692

Spirit, Open My Heart

Gathering Concerns and Celebrations

Prayers from State Street

Ned Trudeau

Prayers of the People

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

The 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

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

Offertory Music

Worship

Gertrude Haupt Richolson

***Hymn #607**

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



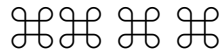
***Hymn #761**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

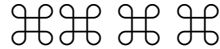
***Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher

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



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Stay in Touch with Westminster

- Visit our website: 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



Help Wanted

Our congregation needs your help! If you have a **gift, skill, or idea for a program or project** you'd like to share, please reach out to **Pastor Heather Kirk-Davidoff**: text or call her at **240-281-5005** or email her at pastor@wpcalbany.org.

Sunday Morning Service

- **Worship Leaders:** Each Sunday, someone from our congregation helps lead our worship, reading prepared parts of the service and adding a few comments of their own. We love to include new voices! No experience necessary—we'll give you lots of guidance. Gail Garrison is our coordinator: garrisongail1@gmail.com
- **Ushers:** Our ushers welcome everyone, hand out Orders of Service, receive the offering and help newcomers navigate our building. Newcomers are very welcome to join our team. Ned Trudeau coordinates: nedtrudeau@gmail.com

Teams Looking for Volunteers

Anyone in the congregation is welcome to help guide Westminster's programs by serving on an ongoing team—no board election required! Teams meet based on member convenience and current needs. Contact Pastor Heather if you're interested in serving on any of the following:

- **Hospitality Team:** Do you feel called to welcome people and help them feel at home in Westminster? This team makes visitors feel included, helps our congregation build meaningful connections, and welcomes new people.

- **Adult Spiritual Development Team:** Do you feel called to help people develop their life of faith? As a subcommittee of Christian Life & Learning, this team works with our Minister to envision and implement adult programs, like Second Hour and other special events.
- **Personnel Team:** Do you feel called to support Westminster's staff? This team helps care for our pastor and church employees by supporting healthy workplace practices, personnel policies, and staff encouragement.
- **Faith in Action Potluck Team:** Do you love bringing people together around the table? This team helps run our monthly 1st Tuesday community dinners. We are looking for folks to help set up the room, welcome neighbors and English Language learners, and guide dinner discussions.

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

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, Sunday Sexton

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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