



FOCUS

CHURCHES OF ALBANY

Albany, New York
February 1, 2026

Service of Worship 10:00 am

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany
FOCUS Churches of Albany Combined Worship



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 Through a Stained Glass Window Olive Nelson Russell

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

Call to Worship Kris Wilhelm, FOCUS Board Member

One: Do not fear, for the Lord has spoken:

All: I have called you by name; you are mine.

One: Let us worship God!



***Opening Hymn #401**

Here in This Place



Prayer of Confession

Kris Wilhelm

One: Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

All: O Lord our God,

you call us to proclaim the gospel,

but we remain silent in the presence of evil.

You call us to be reconciled to you and one another,

but we are content to live in separation.

**You call us to seek the good of all,
but we fail to resist the powers of oppression.
You call us to fight pretensions and injustice,
but we sit idly by,
endangering the lives of people far and near.
Forgive us, O Lord.
Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit,
and give us the courage and strength
to be reconciled to others;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.**

(Time of silence)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Kris Wilhelm

One: Hear the good news!
As people born of water and the Spirit
we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun.
God's grace is poured out upon us day by day.
Be thankful, and live as one who has been raised to new life!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

***Response Hymn #582**

Glory To God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

***Passing The Peace**

Kris Wilhelm

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Introducing the FOCUS Staff

Renewing Our Covenant

Choral Anthem

Christ Is Our Cornerstone

Music by Edgar H. Aufdemberge
Sung by the FOCUS Churches of
Albany Combined Choir

Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build;
with His true saints alone the courts of heaven are filled;
on His great love our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.

Here, gracious God, do thou for evermore draw nigh;
accept each faithful vow, and mark each suppliant sigh;
in copious showers on all who pray each holy day thy blessings pour.

Here may we gain from heaven the grace which we implore;
and may that grace, once given, be with us evermore,
until that day when all the blest to endless rest are called away.

O then with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring;
our voices we will raise the Three in One to sing;
and thus proclaim in joyful song, both loud and long, that glorious name.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

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

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.
Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case
against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.
O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what
happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

"With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt
offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of
oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?



Scripture

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

- "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon

What Does the Lord Require?

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #468

In My Life



Prayers from State Street

Ned Trudeau, FOCUS Board Member

Prayers of the People

Belinda Quaye, Office Manager &
Volunteer Coordinator, FOCUS Churches of Albany

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

Keith Leahey, Executive Director
FOCUS Churches of Albany

Our offerings this morning support FOCUS ministries.

You can make a donation by putting cash or a check made out to FOCUS in the offering plate.

You can also donate through the FOCUS website (www.focuschurches.net). All donations are fully tax deductible.

Your gifts make it possible for us to "do together what we cannot do alone"!

Offertory Anthem

Until Love Is Spoken

Karen Marrolli

Grant us gentleness in power.
Grant us strength to face this hour, to forgive, to offer grace,
and nurture peace in every place.

Grant us hope when all seems dire.
Grant us faith to spark a fire, to fiercely burn, to drown the night,
and set the world ablaze with light.

And when we meet resistance and our call puts us in danger,
grant us patience and persistence to stand up for friend and stranger.

Grant us courage to be kind.
Grant us singleness of mind to free the world from hate and fear,
so only love is spoken here.

And when our path of justice leads us to the dreadful fight,
grant us vigor, and entrust us with the power to do what's right.

Grant us courage to be kind.
Grant us singleness of mind to free the world from hate and fear,
so only love is spoken here.

Hymn #607

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION



Invitation to Communion

Led by the Clergy of the FOCUS Churches of Albany

One: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
let those who have no money come and eat.

Isaiah 55:1; Psalm 63:4-5

**All: God will satisfy our souls with a rich feast,
and we will bless the Lord as long as we live.**

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 our thanks and praise.

In every time and every age, O God,
it is good and faithful that we give you thanks,
for your mercy is sure
and your steadfast love endures forever.
In your compassion you gave us Christ Jesus,
who sets us free from death
and leads us to life eternal.

And so, with all creation,
with all the needy and hungry ones,
with all those who have enough and plenty,
with creatures large and small,
with sun and moon and stars,
and with the saints of every age,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Hymn #595)

**Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: you are holy, Lord!**

**Santo, santo, santo. ¡Mi corazón te adora!
Mi corazón te sabe decir: ¡Santo eres, Señor!**

Blessed are you, O God, creator of all things.
By your power and love you continue
to deliver your people from bondage,
thwart the designs of evil,
show the way through the wilderness,
turn hardship into righteousness,
and reveal your hand upholding the just.
Blessed are you, O Christ, servant of the universe.
You came among us to feed and heal and teach,
to confound the haughty,
to confuse the deceivers,
to challenge the wrong-hearted,
and, in all these things,
to give hope to those who long for peace.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: Among friends, gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread and broke it, and said, "This is my body, broken for you."

Later he took a cup of wine and said,
"This is the cup of the new covenant,
the new relationship with God, which is possible for each of you.
Take it, all of you, to remember me."

Along with Christians around the world and throughout time, we say those words as we come to this table.
We remember Jesus' last supper.
We remember his betrayal. We proclaim his death.

This table is a lament for the suffering and brokenness in the world,
but it is also a sign of new life.

Jesus sat at the table on the night of his last supper, knowing that he was about to die.
But he knew that his death would not be the end of the story,
for him or for the new community that had formed around them.
“Whenever you do this, remember me,” he told them.
He trusted that there would be more tables,
more gatherings with bread and wine shared among his disciples.
On the very night when they would scatter in fear,
he proclaimed that they would gather again in celebration.

**All: We come to this table to proclaim hope,
to gather in the midst of a world that pulls us apart,
to find abundance in a world that focuses on scarcity,
to find new life in a world that sees death as the end.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Blessed are you, O Spirit, giver of life.
You give us words when we have none;
you fill us with vision when we have the most need;
you give us voice to proclaim our faith in every hour.
Be our guide and teacher, today and always.

Come now, O Prince of Peace,
Spirit of Love,
Breath of Life.
Bring to all this hurting world the joy that Mary knew,
and teach us to proclaim with her,
“I have seen the Lord!” Amen.



Sharing Bread and Cup

Communion Hymns

#510 We Gather Here in Jesus' Name

#507 Come to the Table of Grace



Prayer after Communion

**All: God of abundance,
With this bread of life and cup of salvation
You have united us with Christ,
Making us one with all your people.**

**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
That we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
And continue forever in the risen life
Of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



*Closing Hymn #526

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

*Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

Praeludium

Georg Bohm

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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Derrick Baxter, Breakfast Coordinator
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Prophetess McCloud, Breakfast Club Associate
Rasha Dozier, Pantry Associate
Kim Deal, Communications Manager

Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,




we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

582


Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B \flat F B \flat F B \flat F Gm F




1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B \flat E \flat B \flat Gm7 C7




and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

468

In My Life

Lord, Be Glorified

1 In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo-ri - fied.
 2 In our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo-ri - fied.
 3 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo-ri - fied.
 4 In your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo-ri - fied.

This praise song can be understood as a sung version of the first part of the answer to the first question of the Westminster Catechism: that a human being's "chief end is to glorify God." Numerous related Scriptures can be cited, including 1 Corinthians 6:20 and 10:31.

TEXT and MUSIC: Bob Kilpatrick, 1978

Text and Music © 1978, 1986 Prism Tree Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corp.

LORD, BE GLORIFIED

4.4.4.4.6

PRAYER

In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.
 In our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.
 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.
 In your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.

607

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people

TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551
Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

SERVICE MUSIC

here below; praise Holy Spirit ever more;

praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Holy, Holy, Holy

595

Santo, santo, santo

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you!
San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra!

My heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!
Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Se - ñor!

510 We Gather Here in Jesus' Name

Come, Share the Lord

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em7)
B \flat F Gm7

1 We gath - er here in Je - sus' name;
2 He joins us here; he breaks the bread;
3 We'll gath - er soon where an - gels sing;

(D) (Asus)
F Csus

his love is burn - ing in our hearts like liv - ing flame;
the Lord who pours the cup is ris - en from the dead;
we'll see the glo - ry of our Lord and com - ing King;

(A7) (D) (A) (D)
C7 F C F

for through the lov - ing Son the Fa - ther makes us one:
the one we love the most is now our gra - cious host:
now we an - tic - i - pate the feast for which we wait:

(G) (D) (Em) (A) (D)
B \flat F Gm C F *Fine*

come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

(A7) (D) (G) (A7) (D)
C7 F B \flat C7 F

(1) No one is a strang - er here; ev - ery - one be - longs.
(2) We are now a fam - i - ly, of which the Lord is head.

(G) (A7) (D) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
B \flat C7 F Dm Gm7 Csus C

Find - ing our for - give - ness here, we in turn for - give all wrongs.
Though un - seen, he meets us here in the break - ing of the bread.

The center of this text recalls Christ's post-Resurrection meal at Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35), a reminder that the Risen Christ is in our midst when two or three gather in his name (Matthew 18:20) and share a foretaste of the Heavenly Feast (Matthew 26:29/Luke 22:18/Mark 14:25).

Come to the Table of Grace 507

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)
 F C Dm F7/C B \flat

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) (D) (A) (D) (Em)
 C F C F Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 F/A B \flat F/C C7 F B \flat F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

The simple, formulaic nature of this song makes it especially suitable for use during the communion portion of the Lord's Supper. Because it can be learned readily and does not require reference to a printed source, it frees people to sing before and after receiving the elements.

526 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: bread is bro - ken; the wine is poured;
 sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:



Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain;
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!



earth can breathe a - gain; pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Maracas and other rhythm instruments may be used. ||: ♩. ♩. ♩. :||

This "communion calypso" (as the author called it) affirms the continuing presence of Christ both in the sacramental meal and in the lives of Christians. Because this text was written to fit a pre-existing tune, it has a rather telegraphic style that encourages pondering.