

The Lord's Service

The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

AUGUST 06, 2023



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

Please use the prelude as a time of silent preparation for the worship of the Triune God.

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

⊗ WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 98:

Q. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies.

⊗ CALL TO WORSHIP

HEBREWS 12:22-24

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God,
to the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,
and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,
and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

⊗ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, while our days vanish like shadows and our lives wear out like a garment, you are eternal. Although our earthly lives come to an end, help us to live in Christ's endless life and at length attain our home, the heavenly Jerusalem, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

⊗ HYMN OF PRAISE

Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve

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CONFESSION OF SINS

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.



THE KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

☒ RESPONSIVE READING OF THE LAW FROM THE GOSPELS

You shall have no other gods before me.
It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.

You shall not make for yourself a graven image.
God is a spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool... Let what you say be simply Yes or No; anything more than this comes from evil.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath; so the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath.

Honor your father and your mother.
For God commanded, he who speaks evil of father or mother, let him surely die.

You shall not kill.
Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

You shall not commit adultery.
Everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

You shall not steal.
For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery...theft...These are what defile a man.

You shall not bear false witness.
For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

You shall not covet.
Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.

☒ THE PEACE

THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEMBERSHIP VOWS

JIM AND ALLY PLEUSS

☒ GLORIA PATRI

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INTERLUDE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON DANIEL 7:9-14 *p. 884*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ACTS 7:54-8:1A *p. 1088*

⊗ PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 116 *What Shall I Render to My God* 637

⊗ GOSPEL READING LUKE 23:32-46 *p. 1051*

⊗ RESPONSE
The Word of the Lord.
Praise be to God.

SERMON *The Stoning of Stephen*

⊗ THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

⊗ DOXOLOGY 731

☒ SURSUM CORDA
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

☒ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

☒ THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured

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*Let thy blood in mercy poured,
let thy gracious body broken,
be to me, O gracious Lord,
of thy boundless love the token.
Thou didst give thyself for me,
now I give myself to thee.*

*By the thorns that crowned thy brow,
by the spear wound and the nailing,
by the pain and death, I now
claim, O Christ, thy love unfailing.
Thou didst give thyself for me,
now I give myself to thee.*

*Thou didst die that I might live;
blessed Lord, thou cam'st to save me;
all that love of God could give
Jesus by his sorrows gave me.
Thou didst give thyself for me,
now I give myself to thee.*

*Wilt thou own the gift I bring?
All my penitence I give thee;
thou art my exalted King,
of thy matchless love forgive me.
Thou didst give thyself for me,
now I give myself to thee.*

☒ HYMN OF DEPARTURE

Lead On, O King Eternal

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☒ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

☒ POSTLUDE

MINISTER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot
WORSHIP LEADER: Johnson Chang-Fong
ORGANIST: Wilma DeJager

The Stoning of Stephen

ACTS 7:54-8:1A

1. The Heavens Opened (vv. 54-56)

The Spirit is the r_____ g_____ of God.

The Spirit directs our gaze to h_____.

With un_____ face, we b_____ the glory of the Lord.

The end of Christian existence is the b_____ v_____.

Jesus s_____ as Stephen's d_____ a_____.

At the right hand of God, Stephen sees the ____ of ____n.

2. The Stoning (vv. 57-58)

This is a scene of bloodthirsty m____ v_____.

Stephen is a member of the J_____ from above.

Saul never f_____ what he s_____.

The Greek word for witness is m_____.

3. The Last Words (vv. 59-60)

Stephen is an i_____ of Christ.

Stephen equates Jesus w/ the F_____ & the God of I_____.

T_____ on earth, r_____ into the highest heavens.

Stephen's cry drowns out their r_____ with f_____.

At death: The things of _____ grow strangely _____.

Martyrdom is of the e_____ of Christianity.

Christ is the martyr whose b_____ alone r_____ us.

Missions Work Highlight

BRIAN AND CARIN ROBERG

Brian and Carin work with the Christian campus ministry called DiscipleMakers based in Pennsylvania, a ministry with the goal of raising up the next generation of leaders for the Church by training college students in Bible study, gospel-driven discipleship, and evangelism. They “both joined DiscipleMakers because the Lord worked deeply in our lives through DiscipleMakers when we were in college,” they explain on their webpage. They continue: “We count it a privilege to have seen Him continue to work in the lives of many others as we have served in the DM Headquarters and on campus at Penn State.” Please keep Brian and Carin in your basket of interest, prayer before the LORD and your support.

Discover DiscipleMakers at: <https://www.dm.org/>

Announcements

It is our joy to receive the Pleuss family into membership at WPC today. We welcome Jim, Ally, and their children: Abigail, Audrey, James (“Beau”), and Isaac.

The MyChoice baby bottles must be returned with the donations or pledges by Sunday August 13th to the Church office.

There will be no Fellowship Luncheon in August. The next Fellowship Luncheon will be the barbecue after the Sunday School kickoff on September 10th.

We are updating the WPC directory. Please see Robert David after Worship to have your picture and information added to the directory.

Vacation Bible School at WPC begins tomorrow.

We are in need of nursery helpers for the month of August. Please look for the sign-up sheets in the nursery. We appreciate your help!

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

Westminster Church is both a place and a people. We gather in this sacred space to worship, to learn, and to serve God as he meets us in Christ. To this end we dedicate our time, our talent, and our resources. Here the Gospel of Christ is freely proclaimed: *We are weaker and more sinful than we ever dared admit, but through Christ we are more loved and accepted than we ever dared hope.* As a community of Christians, we are building a bridge to the future through faith and friendship. To this end, we pray God will give us strength, vision, and wisdom. We are thankful that you could join with us today. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Welcome to Westminster!

Westminster Stated Services

Worship	10:00AM
Sunday School (<i>Sept–June</i>)	11:45 AM
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 PM

Christ's Church of the Hudson Valley

Worship	11:00 AM
Sunday School	12:30 PM

Church & Office Location

614 Station Road
Rock Tavern, NY 12575

T 845.496.7971 | F 845.496.7916
www.westminsterchurch-ny.org
office@westminsterchurch-ny.org

Cover

The Celtic cross reminds us, as Presbyterians, of our historical roots in the British Isles dating back at least to the fifth century. *Post Tenebras Lux* is a Latin slogan from the 16th-century Protestant Reformation meaning *After Darkness, Light*. The cross and the slogan combine to express our desire to be rooted in the ancient faith and to embrace the attainments of the Protestant Reformation.

Westminster was organized in 1854 and is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Senior Minister

The Reverend Kevin Chiarot, Ph.D.

Session (Ruling Elders, with Class Year)

Johnson Chang-Fong (2024), Adam Kuliszewski (2024), Robert David (2025), Mike Bonagura (2026), James Phillips (2026)

Board of Deacons (with Class Year)

Joe Hall (Chair: 2024), Bill Cooke (2025), Ed Timberger (2025), David Babick (2026), Noah Watson (2026)

Board of Trustees

Bob Maucher (Chairman)
Adam Kuliszewski (Vice-Chairman)

Staff

Administrative Secretary	Jo-Anne Weber
Christian Education	Brenda Grammer
Choir Director	Elaine H. Simpson
Evangelism	Johnson Chang-Fong
Fellowship	JoAnn Maucher
Music Committee	Lori Steinberger
Organist	Elaine H. Simpson
Property Manager	Joe Schlegel
Sexton	Rachel McDuffie
Treasurer	Kevin Quirk

