

The Lord's Service

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

FEBRUARY 23, 2025



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

*Orgelstück (In C Major)
There is a Green Hill*

A. KEHRER
WILLIAM HORSEY / ARR. BY NOEL JONES

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.



CALL TO WORSHIP

PSALM 37:39–40

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;

he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

The LORD helps them and delivers them;

**he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, let the incense of our prayer ascend before you, and let your loving-kindness descend upon us, that with devoted hearts we may sing your praises with the church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and glorify you forever and ever. **Amen.**



HYMN OF PRAISE

Rejoice, the Lord is King

309

CONFESSION OF SINS

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule over our lives. We have followed the ways of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us of the guilt of our sin, and liberate us from its power, that we may be holy and faithful, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, the ascended ruler of all, and the great head and king of the church, in whose name we pray. 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

1 JOHN 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God,
and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us,

that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us

and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.



THE PEACE



GLORIA PATRI

735

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

INTERLUDE

There Is A Balm in Gilead

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL / ARR. M. WINCHESTER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Grant, Almighty God, that as you shine on us by your Word, we may not be blind at midday, nor willfully seek darkness, and thus lull our minds asleep: but, may we be roused daily by your Word, and may we stir up ourselves more and more to fear your name and thus present ourselves and all our pursuits, as a sacrifice to you, that you may peaceably rule and perpetually dwell in us, until you gather us to your celestial habitation, where there is reserved for us eternal rest and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ROMANS 6:8-14

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

✠ PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 138 *With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring* 88

✠ GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 10: 28-33

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

SERMON *“Living and Dying with Christ”*

✠ THE ATHANASIAN CREED PART 1

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith. And the catholic faith is this:

That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity, neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the substance. For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is one, the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son and such is the Holy Spirit. The Father is uncreated, the Son is uncreated, and the Holy Spirit is uncreated. The Father is immeasurable, the Son is immeasurable, and the Holy Spirit is immeasurable. The Father is eternal, the Son is eternal, and the Holy Spirit is eternal. And yet there are not three eternal beings; there is but one eternal being. So too there are not three uncreated or immeasurable beings; there is but one uncreated and immeasurable being.

Likewise, the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, and the Holy Spirit is almighty. Yet there are not three almighty beings; but one almighty being. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. Yet they are not three gods; there is but one God. Thus, the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, and the Holy Spirit is Lord. Yet there are not three lords; there is but one Lord.

Just as Christian truth compels us to confess each person individually to be both God and Lord, so are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say there are three gods or three lords. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY *O God, Give Us Your Blessing*

PSALM 67 SCOTTISH PSALTER

✠ DOXOLOGY 731
Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen, amen.

☒ 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

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.

☒ THE COMMUNION

(Outer ring alone is grape juice)

COMMUNION HYMN

At the Lamb's High Feast

420

*At the lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who hath washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him whose love divine
gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast,
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.*

*Praise we Christ, whose blood was
shed; paschal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.*

*Where the paschal blood is poured,
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.*

*Mighty victim from the sky,
pow'rs of hell beneath thee lie;
death is conquered in the fight,
thou hast bought us life and light:
hymns of glory and of praise,
risen Lord, to thee we raise;
holy Father praise to thee,
with the Spirit, ever be.*

☒ HYMN OF DEPARTURE

Lord, Thou Lov'st the Cheerful Giver

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☒ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

☒ POSTLUDE

Andante Maestoso

ARCANGETO CORELLI / ARR. BENTON PRICE

MINISTER: Rev. Matt Mierski
WORSHIP LEADER: Gary Berg
ORGANIST: Diane Pedrosa

Missions Work Highlight

TIM & THERESE GALAGE

Tim serves as MTW's Regional Director of Southern Africa. He's responsible to lead and shepherd a team of missionaries in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. The team's focus is on church planting, theological education, and university ministry. He also mentors and advises national partners involved in reformed Presbyterian church planting and presbytery development. Therese supports Tim in his role and has an active ministry among missionary wives and African women in ministry.

Prayer Requests

Families of the Month: Elbert De Jager, Linda Dennis, Dove family, Eksuzian family, and Dan Elmendorf family

Weekly Prayer Focus: Pulpit Search Committee, Angela DeMatteo Davis' mother Jane (recovery from surgery), David Babick (many months of recovery from leg surgery), Kameron Riffard (Esther's grandson battling alcoholism), Mary McCorvey (cancer), Jeanne Phillips (James's mother, limited responsiveness), Megan Brossman (mental health)

Announcements

It is our joy to welcome Rev. Matt Mierski, Assistant Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Schenectady to minister the Word and Sacrament for us today.

Today is our last 6 PM service until after Easter. Elder James Phillips will share from John 1. All are welcome.

Ash Wednesday starts Lent on March 5. Pastor Justin Chiarot will lead services at 7 PM on the Wednesdays from then until Palm Sunday. Consider attending these midweek services to hear God's call for repentance and assurance of His mercy from the book of Lamentations.

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	10:30 AM
Sunday School	12:00 PM

Church & Office Location

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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 Pastor

Vacant

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Justin Chiarot

Session (Ruling Elders, with Class Year)

Robert David (2025), Gary Berg (2025),
Mike Bonagura (2026), James Phillips (2026),
Ron Bonagura (2027), Bob Maucher (2027)

Board of Deacons (with Class Year)

Joe Hall (Chair: 2025), Bill Cooke (2025),
Ed Timberger (2025), David Babick (2026),
Noah Watson (2026), John Grammer (2027),
Ethan Westlund (2027)

Board of Trustees

Robert David (Chairman)
Adam Kuliszewski (Vice-Chairman)

Staff

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

