

The Lord's Service

The Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

OCTOBER 01, 2023



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

*God Moves in a Mysterious Way
O Jesus, Thou Art Standing*

SETTING BY H. WILLAN
ARR. VAN DENMAN THOMPSON

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 106:

Q. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

A. In the sixth petition, which is, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,” we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

⊗ CALL TO WORSHIP

JAMES 1:17-18

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights,

with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth,

that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

⊗ PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, author and giver of all good things, plant in our hearts the love of your name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

⊗ HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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CONFESSION OF SINS

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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

Hear, O people of God, the law that the Lord speaks in your hearing this day, that you may know his statutes and walk according to his ordinances.

Teach us, O Lord, the grace of your law, and give us life by your Word.

The God who saved us in Jesus Christ gave this law, saying: I am the Lord your God! You shall have no other gods before me.

We will worship the Lord our God and serve only him.

You shall not make for yourself an image of anything to worship it.

Living no more in bondage to earthly gods, we will worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord.

We will use the holy name of God with reverence, praising him in everything we do and say.

You shall observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, for in six days you shall labor and do all your work.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

You shall honor your father and mother, that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving to you.

As children we will be obedient to our parents in the Lord; as parents we will correct our children and guide them in the training and instruction of the Lord; we will respect the lawful authorities appointed by God.

You shall not murder.

We will be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave us.

You shall not commit adultery.

We will use our bodies in ways that are holy and honorable, and abstain from immorality and impurity.

You shall not steal.

We will do what we can for our neighbor's good, and work faithfully so that we may share with the poor.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

We will speak the truth with our neighbor in love, render judgments that are true and make for peace, and not devise in our hearts any evil against anyone.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

We will be content whatever the circumstances through the strength of Christ within us.

Thus we must love our neighbor as ourselves.

For the Lord requires of us to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Amen!

⌘ THE PEACE

⌘ GLORIA PATRI

735

INTERLUDE

Ajalon

MELODY BY RICHARD REDHEAD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ISAIAH 1:16-20 *p. 673*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON JAMES 1:26-27; 3:7-12 *p. 1199, 1200*

⊗ PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 107 *O Praise the Lord, for He Is Good* 83

⊗ GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 12:33-37 *p. 971*

⊗ RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord.
Praise be to God.

SERMON *Worthless Religion*

⊗ THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds: God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made: Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Communion

A. GUILMANT / ADAPTED BY O.N. RUSSELL

⊗ 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 *Man of Sorrows! What a Name* 246

⊗ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

⊗ POSTLUDE *The Heavens Declare His Glory* BEETHOVEN

MINISTER: Matthew Mierski
WORSHIP LEADER: James Phillips
ORGANIST: Elaine H. Simpson, D.M.A.

Missions Work Highlight

STEPHEN & LAURA SPANJER

Stephen first came to in Neuenburg am Rhein in Southwest Germany in 1997 as a baseball coach of a small club called the Neuenburg Atomics. Through strong relationships with the locals, he and another Christian brother started Bible studies in their basement apartment, using pizza boxes as their blackboard. Stephen was ordained in the PCA in 2006 and sent back to Neuenburg as a Pastor-Evangelist to plant a church with the handful of Christians in that community. The first worship service of the Neuenburg International Church (NIC) was held on Easter morning, 2008. Stephen's ministry continues to use sports as an inroad to local German communities and the church has grown slowly over the years.

NIC currently has 70 members with 3 elders and 3 deacons. In 2020 the church was able to join a local Presbyterian and Reformed denomination called the ERKWB. It was imperative for the sake of building local leadership that the NIC become a member of a linguistically German denomination, however there were no Reformed denominations in Germany when they moved there in 2007. By God's grace they found this small denomination made up of Swiss and Austrian Reformed churches and were able to join them. The NIC is the first German church in the denomination, but it is our goal is to add more by way of evangelism, faithful Bible teaching, and church planting.

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.

The October Sunday School classes prayer list is posted on the bulletin board in the upper hallway. Please remember to sign up if you will commit to praying seriously once a week for one month for one class - students and teacher(s). Thank you.

The Orange County Life Chain, a peaceful, prayerful, public witness for the unborn will take place on today from 2:00 – 3:30 PM, on Route 211 in Middletown, NY. Participants will line up on the south side of Rt. 211 starting at the Galleria at Crystal Run and ending at Shop Rite Supermarket.

On 10/8/23 there will be a Fall Harvest Luncheon following Sunday School. The congregation is asked to bring main dishes, side dishes, salads and desserts. To encourage a variety of dishes, there is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen. Please stop by the kitchen to add your name and what you would like to bring.

We need nursery volunteers for November and December. Please sign up in the nursery.

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

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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 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

Robert David (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

