

The Lord's Service

The Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

NOVEMBER 26, 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

⊗ CALL TO WORSHIP

ACTS 13:38-39

Let it be known to you therefore, that through this Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which we could not be freed by the law of Moses.

⊗ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, that we might worthily magnify your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

⊗ HYMN OF PRAISE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

457

CONFESSION OF SINS

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned, in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE KYRIE ELEISON

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON



By the mercies of God, present your bodies as a living sacrifice,

Holy and acceptable to God, which is our fitting service.

Do not be conformed to this age,

But be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

That by testing you may discern what is the will of God,

What is good and acceptable and mature.

Let no one think of himself more highly than he ought.

But think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith God has provided.

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil;

Hold fast to what is good.

Love one another with brotherly affection.

Outdo one another in showing honor.

Do not be slothful in zeal,

Be fervent in the Spirit, serving the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation,

Be constant in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints,

And seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you.

Bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice,

Weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; Do not be haughty,

But associate with the lowly and never be conceited.

Repay no one evil for evil,

But give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves,

But give place to the wrath of God.

For it stands written:

“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord”

To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him;

If he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

For by doing so you will heap burning coals on his head.”

Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

⌘ THE PEACE

⌘ GLORIA PATRI

INTERLUDE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON GALATIANS 2:1-10 *p. 1154*

SECOND LESSON ACTS 15:1-11 *p. 1097*

⊗ PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 2 *O Wherefore Do the Nations Rage* 314

⊗ GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 23:1-12 *p. 948*

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

SERMON *Peter at Jerusalem*

⊗ 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

⌘ 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 *Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless* 424

*Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless
your chosen pilgrim flock
with manna in the wilderness,
with water from the rock.*

*Hungry and thirsty, faint and weak,
as you when here below,
our souls the joys celestial seek
which from thy sorrows flow.*

*We would not live by bread alone,
but by your word of grace,*

*in strength of which we travel on
to our abiding place.*

*Be known to us in breaking bread,
but do not then depart;
Savior, abide with us, and spread
your table in our heart.*

*There sup with us in love divine;
your body and your blood,
that living bread, that heav'nly wine,
be our immortal food.*

⌘ HYMN OF DEPARTURE *A Debtor to Mercy Alone* 463

⌘ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

⌘ POSTLUDE

MINISTER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot
WORSHIP LEADER: Adam Kuliszewski
ORGANIST: Wilma de Jager

Peter at Jerusalem

ACTS 15:1-11

Acts 15 is the first G_____ A_____.

1. The Controversy (vv. 1-6)

Circumcision is a s_____ issue for these men.

Westminster Confession 31: Of S_____ and C_____.

Believing P_____: they must keep the Law of Moses.

Circumcision requires full o_____ to the c_____.

2. Peter (vv. 7-11)

God bore witness by giving them the _____.

There are not _____ tiers or tracks of Christians.

The Spirit is the _____ of God's own l_____.

All things are _____, and _____ are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

The gift of the Spirit means there is _____ d_____.

Our hearts are _____ by _____, we are no longer unclean.

Eph. 2; we are c_____, members of the h_____ of God.

The Pharisees' insistence is a p_____ of God.

Grace plus some _____ for salvation ev_____ grace.

The Jews have been unable to bear the _____ of law-keeping.

We are saved by g_____ through _____ apart from _____ w_____.

Let us not let this j_____ new ever get _____!

Missions Work Highlight

REDEEMER BROADCASTING

In the Newburgh-Beacon Area, Heard on 102.5FM and 90.3FM

Redeemer Broadcasting is an evangelically reformed radio ministry which began in the Hudson Valley in 2004. We play calm Christian music and teaching that emphasizes the historic Christian faith. Westminster's full church service is heard each Sunday. Our board of directors and some of our advisors came from this church.

Digital listening options include computer streaming, internet radio, and the "Redeemer Broadcasting" smart phone app. The Lord has blessed us with growth into a small network of stations covering the Mid-Hudson Valley, Northern New Jersey, and Southern Maryland. Listeners contact us daily with testimonials. During the pandemic, many received encouragement and companionship during the unusual times of isolation. Dan and Deb Elmendorf would like to express their sincerest thanks for the sacrificial and generous role our Westminster church family has played in helping them carry on this kingdom work.

Announcements

The congregation families are invited to sing Christmas Carols on Saturday, December 16th at the New Windsor Country Inn at 2 pm. All ages welcome! If you wish to carpool from church please arrive 1:30- or meet at the Inn- 450 Temple Hill Rd New Windsor NY. We will return to the church after for cookies and hot chocolate. Any questions please contact Janis Berg at jtberg123@gmail.com.

We need a few more volunteers willing to prepare an occasional Sunday meal for Donna Conklin's family. You can provide a meal on any Sunday convenient to your schedule. Visit the Mealtrain website for a full explanation and to see the calendar of meal bookings: www.mealtrain.com/3659y8. For questions, contact Carl Wolfe, coordinator.

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

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

