

The Lord's Service

Ascension Sunday

MAY 17, 2026



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

*All Glory Be to God on High
All Creatures of Our God and King*

ARR. NOEL JONES
GEISTLICHE KIRCHENGESANG

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

PSALM 4

Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!

You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. Amen!

☒ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name in this our service of covenant renewal. **Amen.**

☒ HYMN OF PRAISE

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

520

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, the minister in the heavenly sanctuary, 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 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



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

Glory to God

DAVID HAAS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Breathe in us, O Holy Spirit, That our thoughts may all be holy. Act in us, O Holy Spirit, That our work, too, may be holy. Draw our hearts, O Holy Spirit, That we would love your word which is holy. **Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

PSALM 119:1-16

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 JOHN 2:6-14

⌘ PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 55 *Cast Your Burden on the Lord* 673

⌘ GOSPEL LESSON MATTHEW 22:34-40

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

SERMON

A Hostage to Precision

⌘ WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM QUESTION 90:

Q. What shall be done to the righteous at the day of judgment?

A. At the day of judgment, the righteous, being caught up to Christ in the clouds, shall be set on His right hand, and there openly acknowledged and acquitted, shall join with Him in the judging of reprobate angels and men, and shall be received into heaven, where they shall be fully and forever freed from all sin and misery; filled with inconceivable joys, made perfectly holy and happy both in body and soul, in the company of innumerable saints and holy angels, but especially in the immediate vision and fruition of God the Father, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, to all eternity. And this is the perfect and full communion, which the members of the invisible church shall enjoy with Christ in glory, at the resurrection and day of judgment.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Arwelfa- Come Thou Fount

JOHN HUGHES

⌘ 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 WITH 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 *Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands* 427

*Amidst us our Beloved stands,
and bids us view his pierced hands;
points to the wounded feet and side,
blest emblems of the Crucified.*

*What food luxurious loads the board,
when at his table sits the Lord!
The wine how rich, the bread how sweet,
when Jesus deigns the guests to meet!*

*If now, with eyes defiled and dim,
we see the signs, but see not him;
O may his love the scales displace,
and bid us see him face to face!*

*O glorious Bridegroom of our hearts,
your present smile a heav'n imparts!
O lift the veil, if veil there be,*

⌘ HYMN OF DEPARTURE *Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord* 26

⌘ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

⌘ POSTLUDE *Festal March* GEORGE F. HANDEL

PREACHER: Rev. Justin Chiarot
WORSHIP LEADER: Gary Berg
ORGANIST: Diane Pedrosa

Missions Work Highlight

REDEEMER BROADCASTING
NY, NJ, MD, VA

Redeemer Broadcasting is an evangelical 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. 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, Southern Maryland, and Virginia.

Website: <https://redeemberbroadcasting.org/>

Prayer Requests

Saints/Families of the Month

Linda Dennis, Dove family, Eksuzian family, Dan and Deb Elmendorf

Weekly Prayer & Praise Focus

Rich Family, Pulpit Search Committee, Kameron Riffard (Esther's grandson), Mary McCorvey, Alice Watson (Chaz Watson's mother), Barbara Booth (John Grammer's mother), Linda Dennis, Stanley Osiecki (Ed Norris' nephew), Sarah Bermudez (with child), Deborah Watson, Bert Roosje

Announcements

We rejoice to worship today with Christ's Church of the Hudson Valley and are thankful for Pastor Justin Chiarot ministering the Word and Sacrament.

The next Fellowship Luncheon will be on June 14th following the Sunday School Closing Ceremony.

Evening Service at 6pm today.

No Sunday School classes today.

Our annual congregational meeting is today. Standing for election to the office of Deacon are David Babick and Noah Watson. Standing for the office of Elder are Mike Bonagura, James Phillips, and Robert David. There will be nursery coverage and older children's coverage in the overflow room for parents staying for the meeting.

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

560 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 Pastor

Vacant

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Justin Chiarot

Session (Ruling Elders, with Class Year)

Mike Bonagura (2026), Robert David (2026), James Phillips (2026), Gary Berg (2027), Ron Bonagura (2027), Bob Maucher (2027), Adam Kuliszewski (2028)

Board of Deacons (with Class Year)

David Babick (2026), Noah Watson (2026), John Grammer (2027, Chair), Ethan Westlund (2027), Joe Hall (2028), Ed Timberger (2028)

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

