

The Lord's Service

The Ascension of the Lord

MAY 12, 2024



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

Draw Us Near to Thee
Vater Unser im Himmelreich

JOHANN GOTTFRIED WALTHER
HEINRICH SCHIDEMANN

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

HEBREWS 4:14,16

We have a great high priest, who has passed through the heavens,

Jesus, the Son of God.

Let us approach the throne of grace with boldness,

that we may receive mercy and grace in our time of need.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, by raising Jesus from the dead you proclaimed his victory, and by his ascension, you declared him Lord of all. Lift up our hearts to heaven, where he lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



HYMN OF PRAISE

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

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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



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

THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEMBERSHIP VOWS

JOHN AND KELLY MATTHEWS

⌘ GLORIA PATRI

735

INTERLUDE

Jesus Loves Me

WILLIAM B. BRADBURY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, grant that, as your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also, by your Word and Spirit, set our minds on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Amen.**

FIRST READING ACTS 1:1-11 *p. 1080*

SECOND READING HEBREWS 9:11-28 *p. 1193*

⌘ PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 42 *As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams* 661

⌘ GOSPEL READING LUKE 24:44-53 *p. 1052*

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

SERMON *He Ascended into Heaven*

⌘ 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 *We All Believe in One True God* FRIEDRICH W. ZACHOW

⌘ 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

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

COMMUNION HYMN

Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless

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*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

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in C

JOHN MARSH

MINISTER: Rev. Kevin Chiarot

WORSHIP LEADER: James Phillips

ORGANIST: Elaine H. Simpson, D.M.A.

HAND CHIMES DIRECTORS: Bo Grammer and Elaine H. Simpson

He Ascended into Heaven

HEBREWS 9:11-28

High _____ is h_____ p_____.

1. Ascension and Redemption

Christ offers a _____ for _____ sacrifice.

In his _____ Christ bears the coming j_____.

Is this sacrifice the main point of Hebrews? _____.

The _____ tabernacle is a _____ of the h_____ tabernacle.

The _____ san_____ is p_____ by Christ's _____.

The background for this is: D____ of _____. L_____.

In Hebrews ____ this is called coming to the s_____ b_____.

The ascension s_____ e_____ r_____.

It is a _____ action.

2. Ascension and Heaven

Christ enters _____ it_____.

Heaven should be thought of as a c_____ p_____.

To the h_____ Z_____ we h_____.

Jesus is the l_____ in the h_____ sanctuary.

He w_____ in the midst of the c_____.

He is the c_____ c_____ of our hymns to God.

The f_____ brings us _____ he is, namely, _____.

Ascension produces: p_____ h_____ -m_____ people.

Where, in God's census are you considered to reside? _____.

Missions Work Highlight

RICHARD AND ROBYN CRANE

Richard, born in Chile, completed his early education in the US. He received his ministerial education and training at Covenant College and Covenant Seminary, earning B.A. and M.Div. degrees, respectively. He also studied at Westminster Seminary and has Chilean Certification in Systems Family Therapy. Robyn is from Pennsylvania and earned her B.A. in Bible and teacher certification at Covenant College. She also studied at Covenant Seminary. From 1979 to 1991, the Cranes working with the National Presbyterian Church in Chile, helped to plant various churches and founded a Christian Counseling and Training Center (PEPP). From 1992 to 1999 they developed EMEP, a Chilean expression of Marriage Encounter that helps bring couples to Christ and into the Cristo Rey Church where Richard was a pastor until 2002. In 2003 the Cranes moved to Miami where Richard works with various organizations connected to MTW developing distance education courses in pastoral psychology. They reach Spanish speakers all over the globe, conducting leadership training by extension via the internet, printed material, and intensive courses overseas.

Announcements

It is our joy to welcome John and Kelly Matthews into membership at WPC today!

There is no luncheon today, but there will be a Coffee and Fellowship time following the service. Also, there is no Sunday school or second service today.

The congregational meeting will be held at 11:45 AM on Sunday May 19th— Gary Berg, Bob Maucher, and Ron Bonagura will be standing for election as ruling elders, and Ethan Westlund, John Grammer, and Joe Hall will be standing for election as deacons.

The Sunday School Prayer List for May is posted on the bulletin in the upper hallway. Please sign up to pray for both the teacher and students by name for whichever class you choose. The commitment is to pray seriously once a week for the month.

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

Rev. Kevin Chiarot, Ph.D.

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Justin Chiarot

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
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

