

# The Lord's Service

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*The Sixth Sunday of Easter*

MAY 25, 2025



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

*Jesus, Priceless Treasure*  
*Chorale Prelude*

WILLIAM FRIEDEMANN BACH  
JOHANNES BRAHMS

*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 105

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

**Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!**

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

**Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually! Amen!**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, we thank you for the gift of faith, which is the foundation of our lives and the source of our joy. Guide us in our worship today, so that we may draw closer to you. Inspire us with your wisdom and strengthen our resolve to live in accordance with your will. May our hearts be filled with hope, and our minds be open to your truth. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**



HYMN OF PRAISE

*The God of Abraham Praise*

34

CONFESSION OF SINS

**Holy Lord, I have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure to find Your mind in Your Word, of neglect to seek You in my daily life. My transgressions and short-comings present me with a list of accusations, but I bless You that they will not stand against me, for all have been laid on Christ. Go on to subdue my corruptions, and grant me grace to live above them. Let not the passions of the flesh nor lustings of the mind bring my spirit into subjection, but rule over me in liberty and power. 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 PSALMS

God spoke all these words, saying; I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods before me.

**Against thee, thee only, I have sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight.**

You shall not make for yourself graven images...you shall not bow down to them or serve them.

**O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

**O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. **How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts! For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

Honor your father and your mother. **Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions; according to thy steadfast love remember me, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord!**

You shall not kill.

**Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any wicked way in me.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.**

You shall not steal.

**Have mercy on me, O God, blot out my transgressions.**

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**Put false ways far from me; and graciously teach me thy law!**

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor's.

**Incline my heart to thy testimonies, and not to gain! Deliver me from all my transgressions.**

The Lord is near to all that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He fulfills the desire of all who fear him, he also hears their cry, and saves them.

**My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**



## 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

*O God of Love, O King of Peace*

HENRY BAKER

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Most High, Glorious God, enlighten the darkness of our minds. Give us a right faith, a firm hope and a perfect charity, so that we may always and in all things act according to Your Holy Will. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ZECHARIAH 5

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

HEBREWS 12:1-17

⌘ PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 51 *Exalt the Lord, His Praise Proclaim* 12

⌘ GOSPEL LESSON MATTHEW 3:1-12

⌘ RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord.  
Praise be to God.

SERMON

*“A Tale of Two Cities”*

⌘ 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

*Andante Serioso*

ALBERT KETELBEY

⌘ 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 ADMINISTRATION OF MEMBERSHIP VOWS Sol Griffin,  
Helena Eksuzian,  
Clara Pedrero

THE COMMUNION (Outer ring alone is grape juice)

COMMUNION HYMN	<i>According to Thy Gracious Word</i>	423
<i>According to thy gracious word, in meek humility, this will I do, my dying Lord, I will remember thee.</i>	<i>thy testamental cup I take, and thus remember thee.</i>	
<i>Thy body, broken for my sake, my bread from heav’n shall be;</i>	<i>When to the cross I turn mine eyes, and rest on Calvary, O Lamb of God, my sacrifice, I must remember thee.</i>	

⌘ HYMN OF DEPARTURE *Arise, My Soul, Arise* 305

⌘ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

⌘ POSTLUDE *Psalm XX* BENEDETTO MARCELLO

MINISTER: Rev. Justin Chiarot  
 WORSHIP LEADER: Gary Berg  
 ORGANIST: Elaine H. Simpson, D.M.A.

## Quotes of the Week

“The sense of unhappiness is so much easier to convey than that of happiness. In misery we seem aware of our own existence, even though it may be in the form of a monster's egotism: this pain of mine is individual, this nerve that winces belongs to me and no other. But happiness annihilates us: we lose our identity.”

## *The End of the Affair* by Graham Greene

“In death, of which they talked to him so often, Seryozha disbelieved entirely. He did not believe. He did not believe that those he loved could die, above all that he himself would die. That was to him utterly inconceivable and impossible. But he had been told that all men die; he had asked people, indeed whom he trusted, and they too, had confirmed it; his old nurse, too, said the same, though reluctantly. But Enoch had not died, and so it followed that everyone did not die. “And why can not anyone else so serve God and be taken to alive to heaven?” thought Seryozha. Bad people, that is those that Seryozha did not like, they might die, but the good might all be like Enoch.”

~ *Anna Karenina* by Tolstoy

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# Missions Work Highlight

RICHARD AND ROBYN CRANE— MISSION TO THE WORLD

The Cranes currently live in the Tampa area, where Richard works with numerous organizations connected to MTW developing distance education courses in pastoral psychology. Richard and Robyn reach Spanish speakers all around the globe as they conduct leadership training by extension using the internet, printed material, and intensive courses internationally. More information is available for Mission to the World and the Cranes at [www.mtw.org](http://www.mtw.org).

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## Prayer Requests

**Saints/Families of the Month:** Ezra Kuliszewski family, Ruth Lettieri, Art Luse, Gill Mackay family, Jon Mathews family

**Weekly Prayer Focus:** Pulpit Search Committee, Abigail Elmendorf with child (due 9/25), Angela DeMatteo Davis' mother Jane (recovery from surgery), David Babick (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)

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## Announcements

Our annual congregational meeting will be held today after our morning service. There will be no Sunday School or Evening Service. Adam Kuliszewski, Gary Berg, and Robert David will be standing for election as ruling elder. Joe Hall and Ed Timberger will be standing for election as deacons.

We will have nursery and child care coverage for infants to age 10 during the Congregational meeting.

Next week, June 1st, will be the last day of Sunday School classes for all ages.

June 8th will be our Sunday School Closing Program immediately following the morning worship service.

# 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!

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## 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

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[www.westminsterchurch-ny.org](http://www.westminsterchurch-ny.org)  
[office@westminsterchurch-ny.org](mailto: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)

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

