

The Lord's Service

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

According to Thy Gracious Word

423

*According to thy gracious word,
in meek humility,
this will I do, my dying Lord,
I will remember thee.*

*thy testamental cup I take,
and thus remember thee.*

*Thy body, broken for my sake,
my bread from heav'n shall be;*

*When to the cross I turn mine eyes,
and rest on Calvary,
O Lamb of God, my sacrifice,
I must remember thee.*

☒ 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.

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.

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)

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!

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

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

