The Lord's Service

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

AUGUST 16, 2026



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE *Cloche du Soir* arr. Noel Jones
We Gather Together arr. Noel Jones

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 from PSALM 37

Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!
For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.
Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.
He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord of light, we desire to delight in you, our Triune God. We come into your presence as members of your body to give you our praise, to grow in our trust, and see your way of righteousness for our lives. Grant us your gift of faith, and grace us with strength to do the good works you have prepared for us to perform. For the praise of your glorious grace. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Amazing Grace* 460

CONFESSION OF SINS

Our Father, we confess that though you have saved us, we are tempted to sin. We have wanted to carry out the desires of our bodies and minds. Forgive us for ignoring your wrath towards sin. Forgive us for thinking we have good works of which we may boast. Forgive us for not being aware of the spiritual warfare that surrounds us. Graciously remind us of your love for us. Help us to desire what you would have us desire. Grow in us a distaste for the sin that entangles us. May we not boast, but trust in your provision for us at the Cross. Because Jesus loved us and gave himself for us, we pray in his name. Amen.

THE KYRIE ELEISON

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSIVE READING – OUR LIFE OF GRATEFUL OBEDIENCE MATT 5:1-12

Jesus opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
For they shall receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you
And utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven,
For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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 *We Seek Thy Face* LEIGHTON G. HAYNE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — DANIEL 7:9-14

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON — EPHESIANS 2:1-10

PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 68 — *Stand Up, O God Be Present Now* — 71

GOSPEL LESSON — JOHN 3:14-21

RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord.
Praise be to God.

SERMON — *By Grace Through Faith*

THE ATHANASIAN CREED PART II

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith. And the catholic faith is this:

That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity, neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the substance. The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten; the Son was neither made nor created, but was alone begotten of the Father; the Spirit was neither made nor created, but he proceeds from the Father and the Son. Thus there is one Father, not three fathers; one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three spirits. And in this Trinity, no one is before or after, greater or less than the other; but all three persons are in themselves, coeternal and coequal; and so we must worship the Trinity in unity and the unity in Trinity. Whoever desires to be saved should think thus about the Trinity.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY — *Study in Em* — Traditional

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 *How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place* 469

How sweet and awesome is the place
with Christ within the doors,
while everlasting love displays
the choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs
join to admire the feast,

Each of us cries, with thankful tongue,
"Lord, why was I a guest?

'Twas the same love that spread the feast
that sweetly drew us in;
else we had still refused to taste,
and perished in our sin.

HYMN OF DEPARTURE *To God Be the Glory* 55

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Gladly We Will Sing Hallelujah* PETER LINDEMANN

PREACHER: Rev. Robert Maeder
WORSHIP LEADER: Adam Kuliszewski
ORGANIST: Diane Pedrosa
GUITARIST: Joe Hall

Missions Work Highlight

TIM & THERESE GALAGE – MTW AFRICA

Tim serves as MTW's Regional Director of Southern Africa. He's responsible for leading and shepherding a team of missionaries in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. The team's focus is on church planting, theological education, and university ministry. He also mentors and advises national partners involved in reformed Presbyterian church planting and presbytery development. Therese supports Tim in his role and has an active ministry among missionary wives and African women in ministry.

Website: *mtw.org/missionaries/details/tim-and-therese-galage*

Prayer Requests

Saints/Families of the Month
Adam Kuliszewski family, Ezra Kuliszewski family, Art Luse, Mackay family, Mathews family

Weekly Prayer & Praise Focus
Rich Family, Pulpit Search Committee, Kameron Rifflard (Esther's grandson), the family of Mary McCorvey, Alice Watson (Chaz Watson's mother), Barbara Booth (John Grammer's mother), Linda Dennis, Stanley Osiecki (Ed Norris' nephew), Bert Roosje

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Announcements

It is our joy to welcome Rev. Rob Maeder, ordained Teaching Elder from the West Hudson Presbytery (NJ), to minister the Word and Sacrament for us today. Pastor Rob will lead us on most Sundays this summer and fall.

All are invited to the evening service today at 6 PM. Marcus Samerson will be sharing from Genesis 22.

Save the Date: Sunday school resumes on September 13 followed by a BBQ lunch!

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 *(Sept–June)*	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)

Gary Berg (2027), Ron Bonagura (2027), Robert David (2027), Bob Maucher (2027), James Phillips (2028), Adam Kuliszewski (2028), Mike Bonagura (2029)

Board of Deacons (with Class Year)

David Babick (2027), John Grammer (2027, Chair), Noah Watson (2027), 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