The Lord's Service

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

AUGUST 23, 2026



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE *All Creatures of Our God and King* arr. Noel Jones
Lasst uns Erfreuen arr. Mark Winchester

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 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Gracious God, we desire to praise you in this place and in this nation, and we join the psalmist in calling all peoples to praise you from every nation on earth. For you are the just Judge, yet you have brought us, who were far away in our sins, near to you through the blood of your Son Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb. As you raised him from death, so, by your Spirit, may we look in hope to our own resurrections and to the eternal worship with all the saints in that heavenly country. For the sake of your Son, our Savior, **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *The Church's One Foundation* 347

CONFESSION OF SINS

Our Father, we confess that we have tried to find our hope apart from you. We have thought that we could find fulfillment in family, relationship, or achievement. Forgive us for making idols out of good things and worshipping what you have created, rather than you, our Lord and Creator. Free us from the drudgery of work and meaninglessness. Draw us close to you as we embrace our citizenship in your kingdom. Build in us a rich joy as we embrace the promises of the gospel. Help us to know your worth, and the matchless status of being known and loved by you. We pray this in Jesus' 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 *There Is A Balm In Gilead* ARR. MARK WINCHESTER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — EXODUS 12:21-28

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON — EPHESIANS 2:11-13

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

GOSPEL LESSON — LUKE 20:9-18

RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord.
Praise be to God.

SERMON — *Brought Near*

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 — *O Divine Redeemer* — Charles Gounod, arr. Todd Kendall

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 *Christ Shall Have Dominion* 439

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Orgelstuck* A. KEHRER

PREACHER: Rev. Robert Maeder
WORSHIP LEADER: Robert David
ORGANIST: Diane Pedrosa
SOLOIST: Elaine H. Simpson

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 through the fall.

All are invited to the evening service today at 6 PM. Elbert De Jager will share a message titled, "God's Grace is Sufficient."

The Fellowship Committee will be holding a church barbecue on Sunday, September 13th, following the Sunday School Opening Ceremony. Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages will be provided. The congregation is asked to bring side dishes, salads and desserts.

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

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)

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