The Lord's Service

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

SEPTEMBER 06, 2026



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE *Beneath Thy Wings O'ershading We Come, O Christ to You* arr. Van Denman Thompson setting by Healey Willan

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 33:1-6

Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre;

make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Our Lord and our God, we come to You this day and we acknowledge that You are the only wise God. You are God almighty, You are the God of hosts, and You are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel and all those who believe by that faith of Abraham in the one true God through Your gracious covenant to us in Jesus Christ. We acknowledge and here declare our desire and purpose to worship You and worship You alone, and we ask for Your assistance and acceptance as we do. We adore You, we give You honor, we give to You this day the glory due Your name. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear* 368

CONFESSION OF SINS

Our Father, we confess that we have trusted our own wisdom, our own strength, and our own words more than we have trusted Christ. We have hardened our hearts toward your Word, acted timidly with the riches of the gospel, and fixed our hope on outward things that are fading away. Forgive us for living beneath the calling you have given us in Christ. By your Spirit, soften us, strengthen us, and teach us to treasure your Word. Root and ground us in the love of Christ, draw us near to you, and make your wisdom known through your church. We ask 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 OF THE LAW

Hear, O people of God, the law that the Lord speaks in your hearing this day, that you may know his statutes and walk according to his ordinances.

Teach us, O Lord, the grace of your law, and give us life by your Word.

The God who saved us in Jesus Christ gave this law, saying: I am the LORD your God! You shall have no other gods before me.

We will worship the LORD our God and serve only him.

You shall not make for yourself an image of anything to worship it.

Living no more in bondage to earthly gods, we will worship the LORD our God in spirit and in truth.

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD.

We will use the holy name of God with reverence, praising him in everything we do and say.

You shall observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, for in six days you shall labor and do all your work.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

You shall honor your father and mother, that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving to you.

As children we will be obedient to our parents in the Lord; as parents we will correct our children and guide them in the training and instruction of the Lord; we will respect the lawful authorities appointed by God.

You shall not murder.

We will be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave us.

You shall not commit adultery.

We will use our bodies in ways that are holy and honorable, and abstain from immorality and impurity.

You shall not steal.

We will do what we can for our neighbor's good, and work faithfully so that we may share with the poor.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

We will speak the truth with our neighbor in love, render judgments that are true and make for peace, and not devise in our hearts any evil against anyone.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

We will be content whatever the circumstances through the strength of Christ within us.

Thus we must love our neighbor as ourselves.

For the Lord requires of us to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Amen!

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 *Christ, We Adore and Worship Thee* DUBOIS / ARR. ROGERT C. WILSON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON GENESIS 26:1-5

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON EPHESIANS 2:14-18

PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 87 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* 345

GOSPEL LESSON MARK 7:24-30

RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord.
Praise be to God.

SERMON *The Most Divided Hour*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY *Just As I Am, Without One Plea* JACK C. GOODE

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 *My Faithful Heart Rejoices* JOHANNES BRAHMS

PREACHER: Rev. Rob Maeder
WORSHIP LEADER: Adam Kuliszewski
ORGANIST: Elaine H. Simpson

Missions Work Highlight

JEREMIAH & JULIE DIEDRICH
JAARS (JUNGLE AVIATION AND RELAY SERVICE), NC / WORLDWIDE

Since 2006, Jeremiah, Julie and their children, Miriam, Nehemiah, Hadassa and Simeon have been aiding Bible translation through the use of aircraft in the Amazon region of Brazil. In 2022, after nine years of flying a Cessna aircraft, and then four years of flying a helicopter in Brazil, Jeremiah and Julie were asked to take a permanent role in training and recruiting at the JAARS center in Waxhaw, North Carolina. Leaving their home and work in Brazil had been difficult for their family, but they are very excited to be able to use their years of field experience preparing the next generation of missionary aviators. They are thrilled that their new roles will have an even broader impact speeding the work of church planters, evangelists, Bible translators, and other gospel centered workers around the world. (Website: *www.jaars.org/)*

Prayer Requests

Saints/Families of the Month
Maucher family, Melvin Family, Diane Menhart, Joan Mesaris, William Mitchell

Weekly Prayer & Praise Focus
Rich Family, Pulpit Search Cmte., 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, Leslie Mitchell (William's brother), Carl and Nora Steinberger (Mike's father and his father's wife)

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 fall.

There is no evening service today. Next Sunday we will have a second service at 2 PM following the fellowship meal.

Sunday School classes for ages 5 to adults begin next Sunday, September 13, 2026. Our Sunday School Opening will be in the sanctuary following a short break after the worship service. Classes will be held from 11:45am-12:30pm.

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.

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Mary McCorvey will be held at church on Saturday, September 19, at 11 AM.

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