

The Lord's Service

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025



Westminster Presbyterian Church

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PRELUDE

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 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6
God who said, “Out of darkness the light shall shine!”
is the same God who made light shine in our hearts
to bring us the knowledge of God’s glory shining in the face of Christ.

- ⌘ PRAYER OF THE DAY
God of holiness and light, in the mystery of dying and rising with Christ you have established a new covenant of reconciliation. Cleanse our hearts, and give a new spirit to all your people, that your saving grace may be professed and proclaimed to the whole world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- ⌘ HYMN OF PRAISE *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* 53

CONFESSION OF SINS

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy 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

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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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

JAMES 4:5-10

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 18:9-14



PSALM OF RESPONSE: PSALM 31

My Times Are in Thy Hand

684



OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

DANIEL 4:4-37



RESPONSE

The Word of the Lord.
Praise be to God.

SERMON

Pride: the De-godding of God



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

⌘ 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	<i>Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless</i>	424
<i>Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless your chosen pilgrim flock with manna in the wilderness, with water from the rock.</i>	<i>Savior, abide with us, and spread your table in our heart.</i>	
<i>Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;</i>	<i>There sup with us in love divine; your body and your blood, that living bread, that heav'nly wine, be our immortal food.</i>	

⌘ HYMN OF DEPARTURE *All Creatures of Our God and King* 115

⌘ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

⌘ POSTLUDE

PREACHER: Rev. Steve Froehlich
WORSHIP LEADER: Bob Maucher
ORGANIST: Diane Pedrosa

Missions Work Highlight

THE BRAVO CENTER – KINGSTON, NY

BRAVO/Pregnancy Support Center of Ulster County has been in operation for 41 years now serving the community and offering unique services to not only pregnant women in need, but also to fathers, babies, foster moms, and grandparents with custody of their grandchildren. Last year we served 438 babies and toddlers. We offer free pregnancy tests and have resources for pregnancy information. We have baby clothes, diapers, formula, baby food, strollers, and all sorts of other baby items that have been donated, available for those in need. We offer to pray with the clients and many accept prayer. Website: <https://www.pscuc.org/>

Prayer Requests

Saints/Families of the Month: JoAnn and Chris Pugh, Quirk family, Esther Riffard, Bert Roosje

Weekly Prayer & Praise Focus: Rich Family (grieving the loss of Luke), Pulpit Search Committee, Abigail Elmendorf (with child due 9/22), Kelly and Jon Mathews' daughter, Emily (with child due end of September), Esther Riffard, Kameron Riffard (Esther's grandson battling alcoholism), Mary McCorvey (cancer), Jeanne Phillips (James' mother, limited responsiveness), Megan Brossman (mental health), Alice Watson (Chaz Watson's mother suffering with dementia)

Announcements

We are blessed to welcome back our interim pastor, the Rev. Steve Froehlich, retired from New Life PCA in Ithaca, NY, to minister Word and Sacrament to us this morning.

There will be no evening service tonight.

You're invited to share your memories of former pastors Rev. Crane, Rev. Vance, and Rev. Chiarot for a special church history booklet celebrating God's work at Westminster. Please email your reflections to Elaine Simpson (dmaehs1@aol.com) by Nov. 1.

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)

Mike Bonagura (2026), Robert David (2026), James Phillips (2026), Gary Berg (2027), Ron Bonagura (2027), Bob Maucher (2027), Adam Kuliszewski (2028)

Board of Deacons (with Class Year)

David Babick (2026), Noah Watson (2026), John Grammer (2027, Chair), 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

