

# Service for the Lord's Day

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
400 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, Virginia  
www.westminsterva.org · 434-293-3133



## Preparing to Hear God's Word

Prelude

*Voluntary III*

G.F. Handel

Welcome

### ◆ Call to Worship

*God calls us to use our gifts for the building of God's kingdom.*

**But we are afraid.**

*Christ urges us to find our courage and not look back.*

**But our gifts seem so small.**

*The Spirit offers us everything we need.*

**But what if we fail?**

*Trust the gifts that you have been given.*

**We will celebrate our gifts as we worship God this day.**

### ◆ Hymn 363

**Rejoice, the Lord is King!**

DARWALL'S 148TH

Call to Confession

*Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose again for us, Christ sits on the right hand of God and prays for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence as we confess our sins...*

Prayer of Confession

**Faithful steward, you bless each one of us with many gifts that are uniquely our own. We want to use our talents to build up your Kingdom, and we yearn to live with gratitude for all that you have done for us and for the opportunities you place before us. Yet, we hold back, fearful of saying the wrong thing, looking foolish, or wasting our time. Forgive us. Clear our vision and help us see the good we can do with the gifts and talents we have received...**

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

HS 71

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy, have mercy.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Rejoice beloved! Hear these words of forgiveness and assurance: "Well done, good and trustworthy [child]; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your [God]."*

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## ◆ Sung Response

Glory to God hymnal no. 582

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## God's Word to Us

A Time with Children and Youth

Sung Prayer for Illumination

Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Judges 4:1-7

OT p. 210  
David Martin

Anthem

*Keep Your Lamps!*

African-American spiritual  
arr. Andre Thomas  
Carl Hamilton, percussion

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
The time is drawing nigh.

Children don't get weary,  
Children don't get weary,  
Children don't get weary,  
'Til your work is done.

Christian journey soon be over,  
Christian journey soon be over,  
Christian journey soon be over,  
The time is drawing nigh.

Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 25:14-30

NT p. 27

Sermon

Live Like You've Just Won the Lottery

Jewell-Ann Parton

## Responding to God's Word

## ◆ Affirmation of Faith

from a *Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
Israel, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:**

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed, and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

◆ Hymn 611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

Prayers of the Congregation and 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.**

Offertory

Give Thanks Unto the Lord

Richard Dirksen

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord,  
and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most Highest:  
To tell of Thy loving kindness early in the morning,  
and of Thy truth in the night season;  
Upon an instrument of ten strings and upon the lute;  
upon a loud instrument and upon the harp.  
For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through Thy works,  
and I will rejoice in giving praise for the operations of Thy hands.  
Glory be to the Most High 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.

◆ Presentation of the Offering

HS 82

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

- ◆ Prayer of Dedication  
**Giver of gifts, you bless each one of us with many talents. Open our eyes to the possibilities you hold for our weary world. Transform the tithes, gifts, and offerings we bring to you today into light and life for the world. Transform our talents into blessings for all your children. Amen.**
- ◆ Hymn 716                                      **God Whose Giving Knows No Ending**                                      BEACH SPRING
- ◆ Charge and Benediction
- ◆ Passing of the Peace  
*May the peace of Christ be with you.*  
**And also with you.**
- Postlude    *Fugue in B flat Major*    G.F. Handel

- ◆ Please stand, as you are able.

In today's worship, we remember the creators of the body of music known as Negro Spirituals, Jubilee Songs, and, more modernly, African-American Spirituals. By whatever name, these beautiful songs speak directly to the soul. As you feel moved, please consider placing an offering in the envelope provided in the pews in support of the church's Royalties for Negro Spirituals Program.

## What's Happening

*at Westminster*

### **Sunday, November 19**

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion at Common Grounds

9:30 a.m. Church School Hour

11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. UKirk and 20/30/40 Crew Bagel Brunch at Common Grounds

12:15 p.m. Singers Rehearsal in the Choir Room

12:15 p.m. Deacons Meeting in the Upper Lounge

4 p.m. OCS concert in the Sanctuary, with Megan Sharp, soprano, organ & strings

### **Monday, November 20**

6:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Lower Lounge

### **Wednesday, November 23**

Noon Church Office closes through November 26

### **Thursday, November 23**

*Thanksgiving Day*

Noon Thanksgiving Potluck at Common Grounds

### **Sunday, November 26**

*Reign of Christ/Presbytery Hunger Offering*

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion at Common Grounds

9:30 a.m. Intergenerational Advent Workshop in the Fellowship Hall

11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. Singers Rehearsal in the Choir Room

Welcome to the Westminster community. Make sure you're signed up for our eNews, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, @westminsterville. Visit [www.westminsterva.org](http://www.westminsterva.org).

To give, scan the QR code to the right.



# Rejoice, the Lord Is King! 363

Descant

4 Re-joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re - joyce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!  
 2 Our Sav - ior, Je - sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;  
 3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
 4 Re - joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Re - joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.  
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.  
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given.  
 and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!

Each stanza of this enthronement text prepares for the final line of the refrain, based on Philippians 4:4. "Lord" is here a title of Christ rather than a reference to the undivided Trinity. The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) captures the mood well.

## 611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-lect thy rays;  
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.

Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a-bove.  
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.  
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.  
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife.

Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.  
 Joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

# God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (G)  
F Dm B $\flat$

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of  
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D) (Bm)  
F Dm

end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly  
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es  
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G) (D) (A)  
B $\flat$  F C

cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn  
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly  
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm) (F $\sharp$ m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)  
Dm Am Dm B $\flat$  C F

to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall  
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,  
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm) (G) (D)  
Dm B $\flat$  F

rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.