

# Service for the Lord's Day

Reign of Christ  
November 26, 2023

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



**W**elcome visitors, newcomers, and friends worshipping with us today! If you're interested in joining our church community, please speak to a pastor after worship or contact the church office, 434-293-3133. We hope you will worship with us again, whenever possible.

## Preparing to Hear God's Word

Prelude

*Shalom*

Toon Hagen

Welcome

### ◆ Call to Worship

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.*

**Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.**

*Know that the Lord is God.*

**The Lord made us and we belong to our Creator;**

**we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

*Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and the courts of the Lord with praise.*

**Give thanks to God; bless God's name.**

*For the Lord is good;*

**God's steadfast love endures forever and God's faithfulness to all generations.**

### ◆ Hymn 37

**Let All Things Now Living**

ASH GROVE

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Sovereign God,**

**we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm.**

**You guide us toward right paths, but we refuse to follow where you lead.**

**You love and feed and care for us, but we fail to love and serve others.**

**Forgive us, merciful God,**

**so that we may return to your fold and rejoice in your presence.**

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

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

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

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

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

HS 71

Assurance of Forgiveness

*However long we wander, however far we stray, God's steadfast love endures forever.*

*Beloved, be assured: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

**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

Prayer for Illumination

Reading from the Hebrew Bible Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

OT p. 756  
Elisabeth Scott

Anthem *Peace, Salaam, Shalom*  
Peace. We believe in peace. We will work for peace.

Pat Humphries & Sandy Opatow

Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 25:31-46

NT p. 27

Sermon

Lynne Clements

## Responding to God's Word

◆ Affirmation of Faith

from *The Confession of 1967*

**Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city,  
the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast,  
and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom.  
The kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will  
and disrupts God's creation.  
Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people  
and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.  
With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks  
and strives for a better world.  
It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth,  
nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.  
In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.  
Now to the one who by the power within us is able to do far more abundantly  
than all we ask or think, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

◆ Hymn 378

**We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom**

MERLE'S TUNE

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 *Ride On, King Jesus* African-American spiritual  
Ashton Nicewonger, soprano arr. Moses Hogan

Ride on, King Jesus, ride on the conquering king. No one can a-hinder thee.  
I was but young when I begun. But now my race is almost done.  
Jesus rides a milk white horse. The river of Jordan he did cross.  
He's the King and the Lord of all. He's the Lord of lords.  
Jesus is the Prince of peace.

◆ 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

**Holy God, use us and these gifts to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and honor your presence in all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

◆ Hymn 268 *Crown Him with Many Crowns* DIADEMATA

During the hymn, the congregation is invited to respond  
by bringing forward our Presbyterian Hunger Offering for hunger relief work.

◆ Charge and Benediction

◆ Passing of the Peace

*May the peace of Christ be with you.*  
**And also with you.**

Postlude *Nun danket alle Gott* Piet Post

◆ 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 26

*Reign of Christ/Presbytery Hunger Offering*

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

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

11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

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

## Monday, November 27

6:30 p.m. UKirk Dinner & Discussion in Common Grounds

## Thursday, November 30

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room

## Saturday, December 2

9 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

1 p.m. Kids' Day Out in the Fellowship Hall

## Sunday, December 3

*First Sunday of Advent, Special Music Sunday*

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

9:30 a.m. Church School Hour

11 a.m. Worship with Communion 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

1 p.m. UKirk & 20/30/40 CreW Feeding Families Service Project

## Westminster Staff

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Steve Brown

*Finance Administrator*

Alonzo Williams

*Assistant Sexton*



# 37 Let All Things Now Living

G D G Am D

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks-giv - ing  
 2 By law God en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es,

G C G D G

to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;  
 the sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

G D G Am D

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,  
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains,

G C G D G

by guid - ing us on to the end of our days.  
 the depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

Harmony G E Am D

God's ban - ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us,  
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing;

G Em D A7 D

a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:  
 with glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise,

Written for an easy-to-sing folk melody familiar in England as well as Wales, this 20th-century North American text bears many resemblances to both Psalm 148 and the traditional canticle *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* (Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord).

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

G D G Am D

till shad-ows have van-ished, all fear-ful-ness ban-ished,  
 till all things now liv-ing u-nite in thanks-giv-ing:

G C G D G

as for-ward we trav-el from light in-to light.  
 to God in the high-est, ho-san-na and praise!

# We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom 378



1 We wait the peace-ful king-dom, when wolf and lamb shall lie  
 2 Where is the peace-ful king-dom? When will this new day start?  
 3 When wars of des-o-la-tion and hate come to an end,  
 4 That lit-tle child shall lead us to walk the cho-sen way,



in gen-tle-ness and friend-ship with-out a fear or sigh,  
 We long for peace and com-fort to reign with-in each heart.  
 when na-tion meets with na-tion and calls the oth-er "friend,"  
 to share the peace-ful king-dom, to greet God's new-born day.



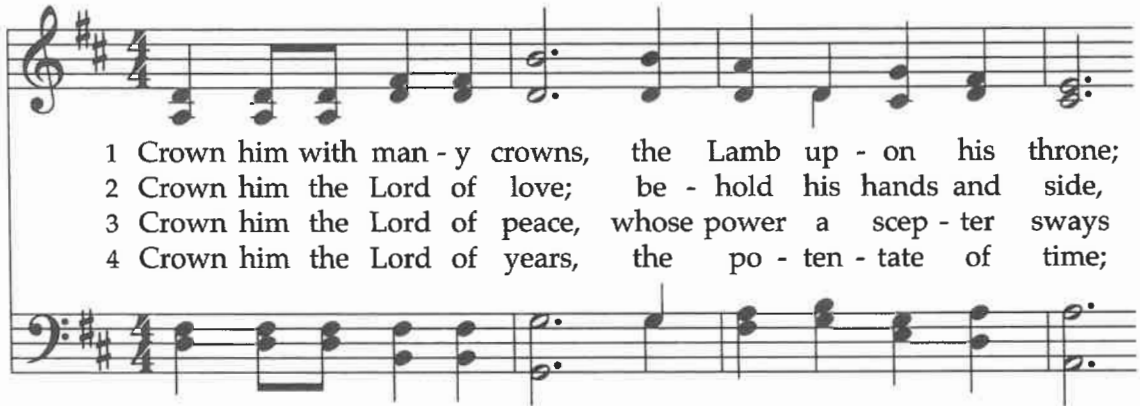
when li-on shall be graz-ing, when snake shall nev-er strike;  
 Yet not in our lives on-ly, nor sim-ply in our home:  
 still peace in all its full-ness will on-ly have be-gun:  
 The child born in a sta-ble is sent to break our chains,



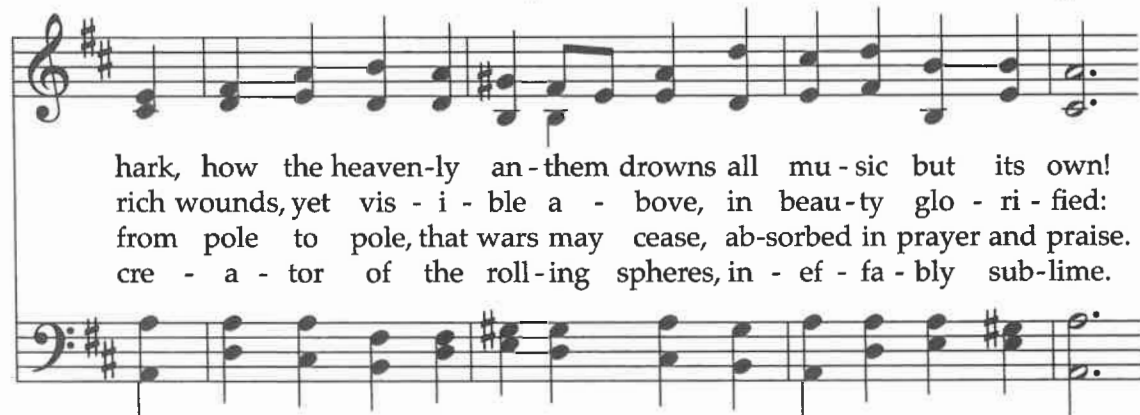
a lit-tle child shall lead us both strong and weak a-like.  
 we pray that all cre-a-tion will one day find sha-lom.  
 sha-lom for all cre-a-tion be-gins with jus-tice done.  
 to bring through word and ta-ble the day when jus-tice reigns.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 11:6–9 in the first stanza, then reflects on that passage in widening frames of reference from self to all creation and identifies its "little child" with one born at Bethlehem. The tune is named for the composer's sister, his first piano teacher.

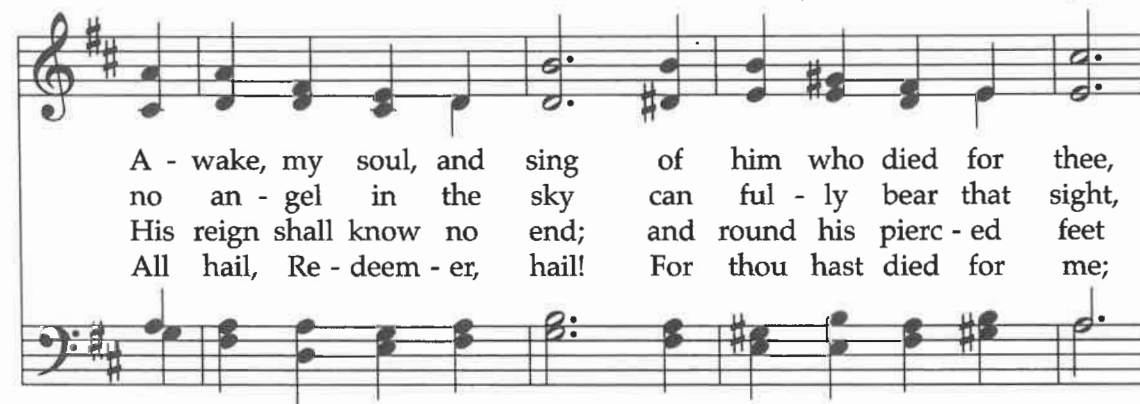
## Crown Him with Many Crowns 268



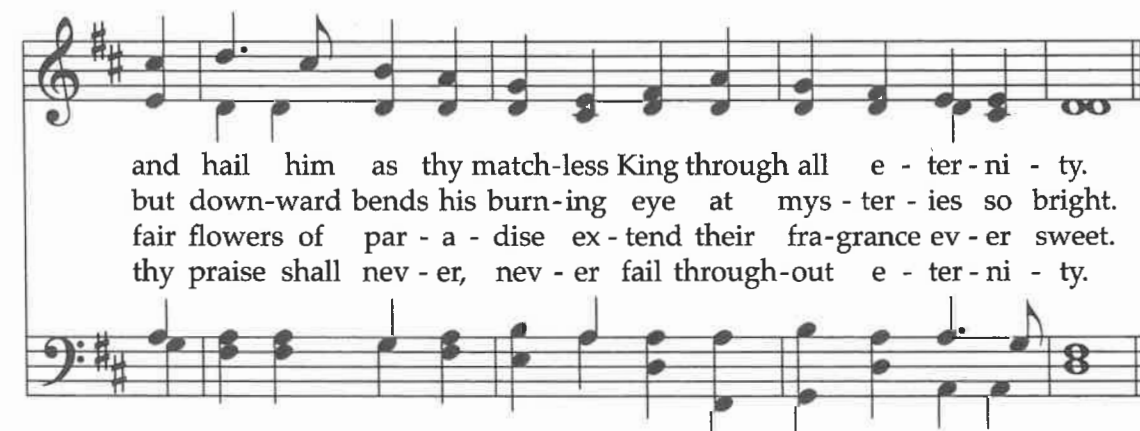
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scap - ter sways  
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;



hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:  
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pier - ed feet  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 but down-ward bends his burn-ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.  
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.