



## Westminster Presbyterian Church

January 12, 2025

PRELUDE "Loch Lomond" Traditional, arr. Dempsey

WELCOME

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION "Carrickfergus" Traditional, arr. DeCesare

INTROIT "The River Is Here" #98 (*Lift Up Your Hearts*)

***Down the mountain the river flows  
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes.  
Through the valleys and over the fields  
The river is rushing and the river is here.***

***Refrain: The river of God sets our feet a-dancing,  
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer.  
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter,  
And we rejoice for the river is here.***

***The river of God is teeming with life  
And all who touch it will be revived;  
And those who linger on this river's shore  
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord.*** Refrain

***Up to the mountain we love to go  
To find the presence of the Lord.  
Along the banks of the river we run,  
We dance with laughter giving praise to the Son.*** Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP (written by Beth Merrill Neel, [holdfasttowhatisgood.com](http://holdfasttowhatisgood.com))

Children of God: welcome!

**Welcome to this place of love and grace.**

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

**God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community.**

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

**We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.**

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

\*HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

#339 (Hymnal)

***Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Nought be all else to me save that thou art –  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.***

***Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.***

***Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.***

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess the ways we have failed to live in the reality of the realm of God.

**For our failure to pay attention to the still, small voice of the Spirit,  
for our surrender to fear and self-protection, forgive us, O God:**

Sung response: ***Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.*** #62(Hearts)  
(Translation: "Lord, Have Mercy")

For our blindness to the needs of others and preoccupation with our own interests:

***Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.***

For harsh words spoken to our friends, and love withheld from our enemies,

***Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.***

For seeking success rather than faithfulness, for praying without acting:

***Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.***

For choices that have not contributed to greater love and justice in the world:

***Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.***

O Lord, you are our strength and our might; you have become our salvation.

Listen to what God says: "This is the covenant that I will make with them. I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the last of them to the greatest, for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31:33-34)

**With joy we draw water from the wells of salvation, and give praise to God.**

Thank you God for the water of baptism. In it you claimed us for your own. It is your promise that by your grace we are born anew. By your Holy Spirit, renew us that we may be empowered to do your will, use faithfully the gifts you give us, proclaim your love to all, and live in joyful praise of you.

**To you, O God, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, be all honor and glory now and always. Amen.**

RESPONSE

"Glory to God"

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***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.***

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

ANTHEM

"Shout to the Lord"

Berta and Sonja Poorman

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:7-17, 21-22

SERMON

"Jesus Also"

Pastor Janet

### RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

WORDS OF SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 12:13, 27

INVITATION

AFFIRMATIONS OF FAITH

Do we renounce the power of evil and everything that defies God's love?

**We do.**

RESPONSE "Goodness Is Stronger than Evil" #2219 (*Sing the Faith*)

***Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;  
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loved us.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loved us.***

Do we honor Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior?

**We do.**

RESPONSE

"Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks"

#106 (*Hymnal*)

*Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

Do we intend to live as Jesus' disciples, obeying his word and showing his love?

**We do.**

RESPONSE

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" #2129 (*Sing the Faith*)

*Verse 1: I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus – no turning back, no turning back.*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

\*SUNG CREED "I Believe in God Almighty" #2042(*Sing the Faith*)

***I believe in God almighty, Father of all things that be,  
Maker of the earth and heavens, keeper of the sky and sea.  
I believe in God's Son, Jesus, now for us both Lord and Christ,  
Of the Spirit and of Mary born to bring abundant life.***

***I believe that Jesus suffered, scourged and scorned and crucified;  
Taken from the cross, was buried – true Life there had truly died.  
I believe that on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave,  
Then ascended to God's right hand, he will come to judge and save.***

***I believe in God's own Spirit, bonding all the saints within  
One Church, catholic and holy, where forgiveness frees from sin;  
In the body's resurrection, for the breaking of death's chain  
Gives the life that's everlasting. This the faith that I have claimed.***

PRAYER OF THANKS FOR BAPTISM

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you**

Let us remember our baptism, and be thankful.

**Amen**

HYMN

"God the Creator"

#27 (*Lift Up Your Hearts*)

***God the Creator, you in love made me,  
who once was nothing, but now have grown.  
I bring the best of all my life offers;  
for you I share whatever I own.***

***O Christ the Savior, you in love called me,  
who once was no one, lost and alone.  
I pledge to go wherever you summon,  
making your will and purpose my own.***

***O God the Spirit, you in love move me,  
who once was nowhere and felt unknown.  
I know my need of you for companion:  
all things can change when not on my own.***

***And with the people summoned together  
to be the Church in which faith is sown.  
I make my promise to live for Jesus  
and let the world know all are his own.***

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (*sung*)

***Our FATHER who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in 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 and ever, Amen. Forever and ever. AMEN***

\*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"Auld Lang Syne" Air and Variations

Delamater