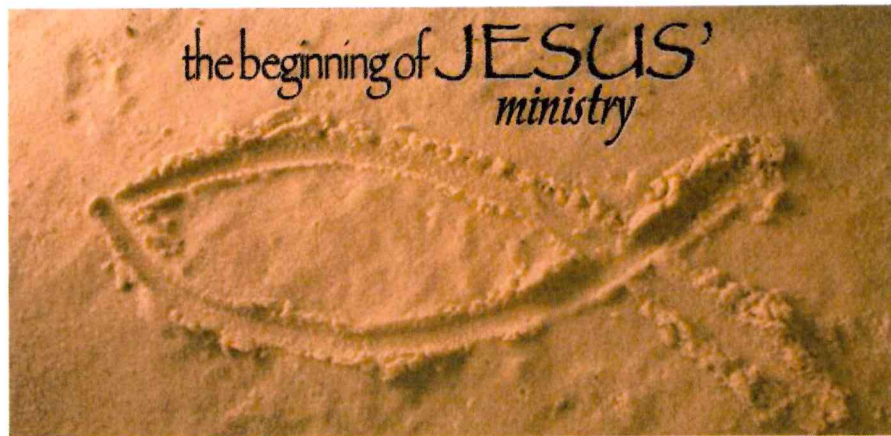


The logo features a stylized cross with a flame at the top and two flames at the base, rendered in blue and red.

WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF DETROIT



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Sunday, March 9, 2025

First Sunday in Lent

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Plainsong

Robert Powell

Welcome to all – especially to our guests.

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad, located in each of the pews.

Hymns labeled GTG are in the Glory to God Hymnal (purple)

Hymns labeled AAHH are in the African American Heritage Hymnal (beige)

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (based Psalm 91)

Where is our home?

Our home is in the shelter and shadow of God.

How can this be our refuge?

**Because God's angels will guard your house and those in it
from evil and threat.**

How can we flourish?

Staying close to God's ways will bring our lives to abundance.

Let us worship God.

Gospel Praise

Without God

Westminster Harmony Chorale

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of wide circles, we too often revert to our fear-filled instinct to cut off those unfamiliar and distant. May we evaluate others based on your heart. In Romans, you remind us when we lean into your kin-dom agenda, our worldview is expanded to focus on our common humanity. May we embrace your created diversity and include all in our cherished life's work. Amen.

Declaration of God's Forgiveness

Passing of the Peace/A Time for Celebration

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you!**

(Exchange signs of Christ's peace and forgiveness with others. We greet one another as neighbors in Christ. You may say "Peace be with you," or respond, "And also with you.")

***Response AAHH #839** Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!
Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem O, Love, How Deep arr. Bradley Ellingboe
Chancel Choir

Second Reading Luke 4: 1-13

Message

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***Affirmation of Faith**(from the Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

***Hymn GTG #724**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Call to Offering

Invitation to Offering

Organ Offertory

Blessed Jesus, We Are Here

arr. Richard Purvis

***Doxology GTG #606** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
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.

Prayer of Dedication

Installation and Ordination of Officers

Presenting of New Officers

Elder Class of 2027

Louis Fisher, Bill Gourlay, Tema Pefok-Zama, Tillie Taylor

Deacon Class of 2027

Michelle Crump-Morden, Deven Humphreys, Andrew Palmer,
Linda Parham, ReShawn Whetstone

Questions for Candidates

Questions for Congregation

Prayer and the Laying on of Hands

Prayers of the People

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.**

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

***Hymn AAHH #468**

A Charge To Keep I Have

***Benediction**

Postlude

Choral (from *Suite Modale*)

Flor Peeters

The organ postlude is offered as an instrumental prayer. You are invited to remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly, remembering those who are still worshiping.

Worship Leaders:

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Downs, Guest Preacher

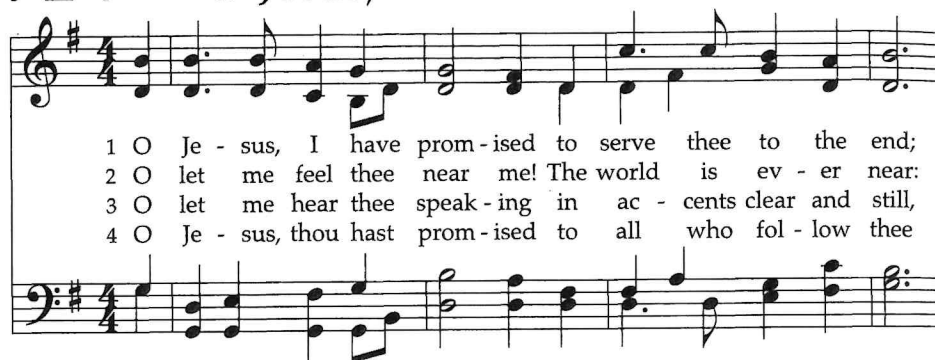
Dalos Grobe, Chancel Choir Director/Organist

Victor Boyd, Westminster Harmony Chorale Director

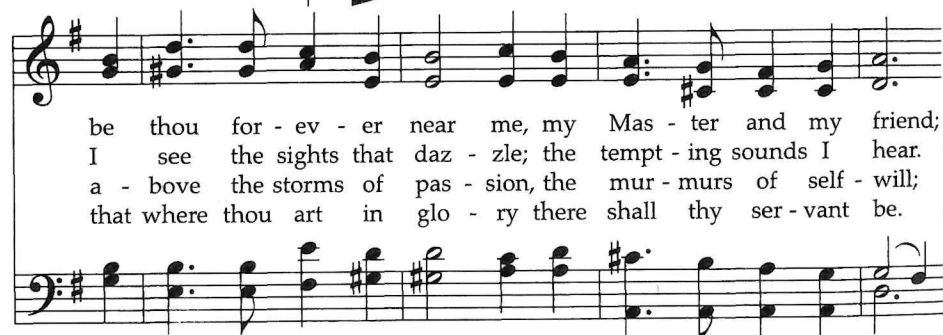
Scott Turner, Liturgist

Miriam Mokom, Myiesha Mokom, Acolytes

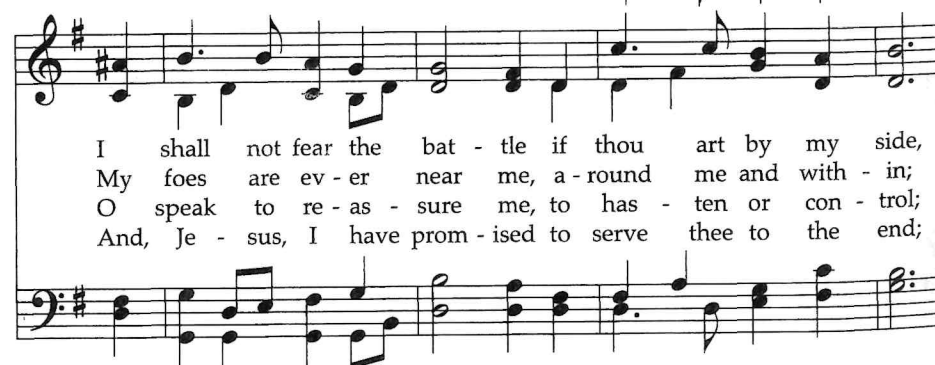
724 O Jesus, I Have Promised



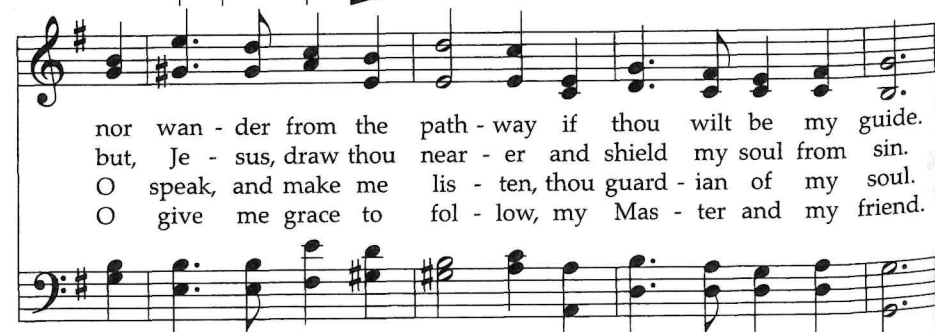
1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;
 2 O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near:
 3 O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4 O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee



be thou for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, draw thou near - er and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Written to highlight the promises made by the author's daughter and two sons at their confirmation, this text equally well recalls the promises of discipleship made in Baptism and in the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant. The tune was written for a text now unused.

TEXT: John Ernest Bode, 1866, alt.
 MUSIC: Arthur Henry Mann, 1881

ANGEL'S STORY
 7.6.7.6.D
 (alternate tune: NYLAND, 725)

A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE 468

*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:14*

1. A charge to keep I have, A God to glo - ri - fy,
2. To serve the pres - ent age, My call - ing to ful - fill;
3. Arm me with watch - ful care As in Thy sight to live,
4. Help me to watch and pray, And still on Thee re - ly,

A nev - er - dy - ing soul to save, And fit it for the sky.
O may it all my pow'rs en - gage To do my Mas - ter's will!
And now Thy ser - vant, Lord, pre - pare A strict ac - count to give!
O let me not my trust be - tray, But press to realms on high.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Tune: BOYLSTON, SM: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872