


The logo features a stylized blue and red cross with a golden flame above it.

# WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF DETROIT

A close-up photograph of several vibrant pink flowers with yellow centers, set against a blurred green background.

**Bless the LORD, O my  
soul: and all that is within  
me, bless his holy name.**

**—Psalm 103:1**

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Sunday, March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

**WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**Prelude**

Prelude on 'Martyrdom'

Hubert Parry

*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**

God's goodness is poured over us!

**God's blessings abound in our lives!**

In the darkness God abides with us.

**In the light God shouts with us!**

Holy is God who is present with us at all times.

**How grateful we are for God's presence and compassion. AMEN.**

**Gospel Praise**

Oh Mary Don't You Weep

Westminster Harmony Chorale

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**In times of trouble, Loving God, we pray for your Spirit to awaken our memory. Remind us that your love always wins, even when it loses. Remind us that your peace is stronger than human power and human weapons are worse than useless. Remind us that generosity makes life possible and kindness makes life pleasant. Creator God, the abundance of this world, the dear lives that touch our own, the hope that carries us forward—all these are gifts beyond our describing. We pray, O God, that they will not be beyond our protection and care. "Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of this hour" we pray. 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** Isaiah 55: 1-9

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** Bless the Lord, O My Soul  
Chancel Choir  
Bill Cutter

**Second Reading** Psalm 103

Bless the Lord

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

*The congregation is invited to sing this refrain as indicated during the reading.*

***Sung Refrain***

<sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.

<sup>2</sup> **Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—**

***Sung Refrain***

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
<sup>5</sup> **who satisfies you with good as long as you live<sup>[a]</sup>  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

***Sung Refrain***

<sup>6</sup> The Lord works vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.  
<sup>8</sup> **The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

***Sung Refrain***

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.  
<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
<sup>11</sup> **For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

***Sung Refrain***

<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

<sup>14</sup> For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.

<sup>15</sup> As for mortals, their days are like grass;  
they flourish like a flower of the field;

<sup>16</sup> for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.

<sup>17</sup> **But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting  
on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children,**

<sup>18</sup> **to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.**

***Sung Refrain***

<sup>19</sup> The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over all.

<sup>20</sup> **Bless the Lord, O you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding,  
obedient to his spoken word.**

***Sung Refrain***

<sup>21</sup> Bless the Lord, all his hosts,  
his ministers who do his will.

<sup>22</sup> **Bless the Lord, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

***Sung Refrain***

**Message**

## **WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (from the Confession of 1967 Inclusive Language Text)

**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.**

**God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.**

**\*Hymn GTG #307**                      God of Grace and God of Glory

**Call to Offering**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Organ Offertory**

**Elegy**

**Gordon Young**

**\*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**

## 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 #299**

Blessed Be The Name

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Fantasia in G minor

J.S. Bach

*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. Melissa Lynn Allison, Guest Preacher  
Dalos Grobe, Chancel Choir Director/Organist  
Victor Boyd, Westminster Harmony Chorale Director  
Jim McCreadie, Liturgist  
Peyton Friday, Myiesha Mokom, Acolytes

### **Today's Anthem**

Bless the Lord, O my soul; let all that is in me give thanks, forget not all of His benefits and His loving kindness. Bless the Lord, O my soul, above the earth so great is His love...His mercy and love...He has not dealt with us according to our faults, but rather as His children. Bless the Lord for his loving kindness.

# 307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -  
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its  
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our  
thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in  
we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.



# 299 BLESSED BE THE NAME

*So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend in heaven and on earth and under the earth.  
Philippians 2:10*

1. All praise to God who reigns a - bove In  
 2. His name a - bove all names shall stand, Ex -  
 3. Re - deem - er, Sav - ior, friend of all, Once  
 4. His name shall be the Coun - sel - or, The

maj - es - ty su - preme, Who gave His Son for  
 alt - ed more and more, He's seat - ed at God's  
 ru - ined by the fall, Thou hast de - vised sal -  
 might - y Prince of Peace, Of all earth's king - doms

all to die, That He might all re - deem!  
 own right hand, Where an - gel hosts a - dore.  
 va - tion's call, For Thou hast died for all.  
 con - quer - or, Whose reign shall nev - er cease!

Bless - ed be the name! Bless - ed be the name!

Bless-ed be the name of the Lord! Bless-ed be the name!

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. It contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes.

Bless-ed be the name! Bless-ed be the name of the Lord!

The second system of music also consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three flats and a common time signature, continuing the melody from the first system. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, continuing the accompaniment.