



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

December 11, 2016
Third Sunday of Advent
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary



Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord.
The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth,
being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient.

- James 5:7-8

Welcome to this place of Christian worship.

Do not wait for someone else to begin worship. Pray silently for yourself, for those about you, for the poor and the oppressed, for those unable to be present, and for those who will shortly lead our common worship. Please silence all cell phones. Childcare is available in the Westminster Early Childhood Programs building for children 5 years old and younger.

Opening Voluntary
Pastoral Symphony

Georg Friedrich Händel†(1685-1759)

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Yorty

Order of Worship

Chiming of the Trinity

The sounding of the chimes, invoking Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit, is an invitation to prepare for worship through a time of silent reflection. Please be respectful of those who are praying.

Introit

Recitative and Air

Georg Friedrich Händel

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,
That her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord;
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:1-3)

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low;
The crooked straight and the rough places plain. (Isaiah 40:4)

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Pedro and Max Berges will light the third Advent candle.

We light this candle as a symbol
of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

**For the Lord will fulfill his promise
to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.**

A righteous Branch will spring up for David;
and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Come, Jesus, come!

Call to Worship

The people stand and remain standing for the hymn that follows.

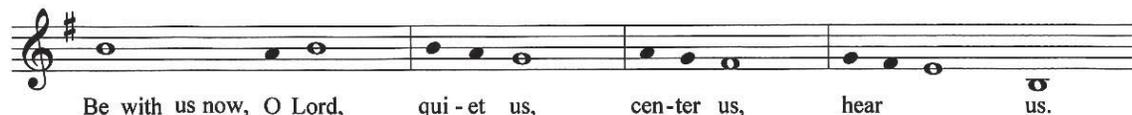
Hymn in Procession, No. 13

Prepare the Way

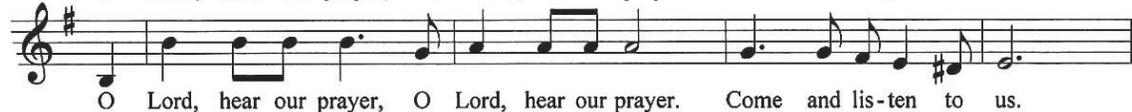
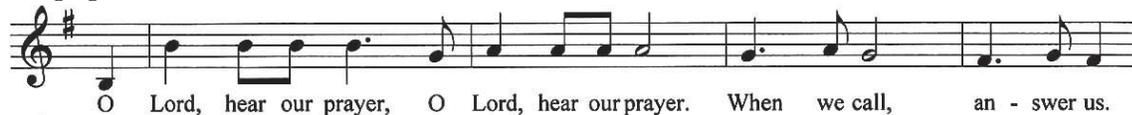
BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Call to Confession

Cantor:



Congregation:



Prayer Of Confession

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace.
You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray.
We hide our eyes from your presence.
We do not listen to your word.
We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing.
Forgive us, O Lord.
Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands,
and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

Time for silent prayer

Kyrie

The people sing.

John Weaver



Words of Assurance

Response to the Assurance

GLORIA PATRI

The people stand to sing.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be -
gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please turn to your neighbor and share the peace of Christ. It is appropriate to say, "The peace of Christ be with you," and to respond, "And also with you." The gesture is simple, but the meaning is profound. When we extend our hand to another, we identify with Jesus, who extended his life to the point of death to make peace with humanity (Col. 1:20-21).

What's more, in the midst of divisions we symbolize our unity through handshakes and hugs (Eph. 2:14-21).

Likewise, when we regularly pass the peace we practice God's call to make every effort to maintain the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3).

Time with Children

Go with them, Lord, and guide their way through this and ev - ery com - ing day,
that in Your Spir - it strong and true their lives may be a gift to You.

At this time, parents may decide to have their children 3 years and older leave with their teachers. When the children leave, please make sure they take their belongings with them.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Chorus

Georg Friedrich Händel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40:5)

Sermon

Patience In These Times

Hymn, No. 10

On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry
The people stand to sing.

WINCHESTER NEW

Invitation to the Offering

Giving 2017 Update

Melissa Balbach

Offertory

The Deacons receive the gifts, a portion of the blessings God has given us, which we return unto God.

Recitative and Air

Georg Friedrich Händel

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing. (Isaiah 35:5-6)

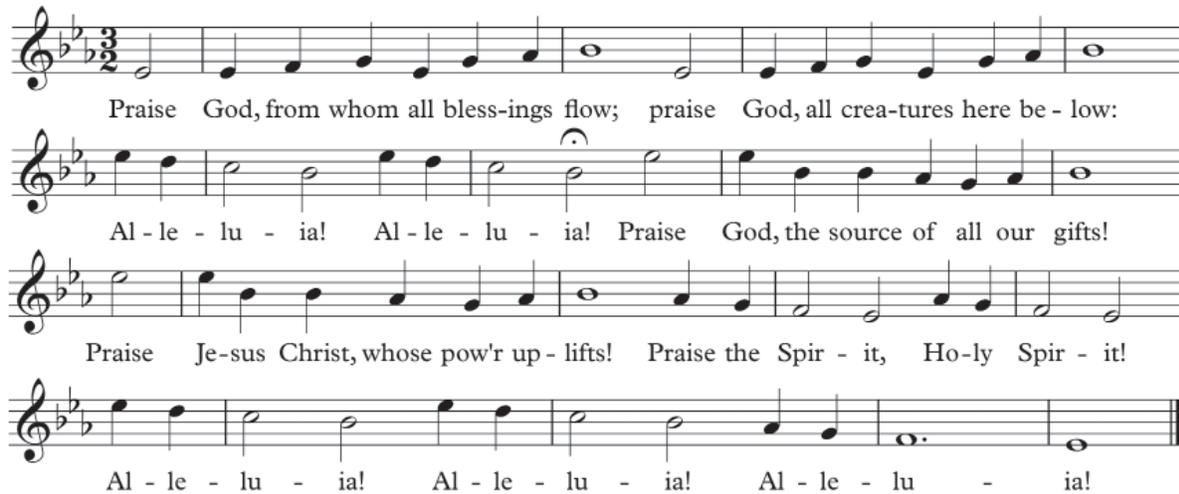
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm,
And carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40:11)

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, He will give you rest.
Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart,
And ye shall find rest unto your souls. (Matthew 11:28-29)

Presentation of the Gifts

The people stand as the Deacons come forward and remain standing for the Prayer of Dedication.

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be - low:
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Je - sus Christ, whose pow'r up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of Dedication

**Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth
giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor.
Your faithfulness never fails.
Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world
and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Concluding with 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
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.**

Sending Hymn, No. 3

Comfort, Comfort You My People
The people stand to sing.

PSALM 42

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Sinfonia and Overture

Georg Friedrich Händel

Immediately following worship, please join us at Meet & Mingle in the Holmes Room for refreshments and fellowship

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor
Claude Welch, Reader
Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries
Brian Glikes, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar
The Westminster Choir
The Senior Choristers of the Westminster Choir School
Douglas Cone, violin
Andrea Cone, violin
Matthew Cone, viola
Drew Cone, cello

Deacons Serving Today

Patty Charlier, Warren Emblidge, Callan Izatt, Janet Kifner-Arnatt, Florence Kilambo Kalumbu,
Johnpatrick Marr, Becky Read-Lukan, Mike Reynolds, Roy Stewart

The Christmas Tree in the Narthex is a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Speth.

If you would like to purchase Sunday flowers in honor/memory of family or friends, there is a monthly sign up on the kiosk in the Gallery Room. You may also call Sue Adams at 883-7597 or email hugwalker1@gmail.com

Notes on Today's Music

This Sunday, all liturgical music is from Part I of Handel's *Messiah*.

†**Georg Friedrich Händel** (1685-1759) was a German Baroque composer who spent the bulk of his career in London, becoming famous for his operas, oratorios, anthems and organ concertos. Born in a family indifferent to music, Handel received critical training in Halle, Hamburg, and Italy before settling in London (1712), and became a naturalized British subject in 1727. He was strongly influenced both by the great composers of the Italian Baroque and the middle-German polyphonic choral tradition.

Messiah (HWV 56) is an English-language oratorio composed in 1741 with a scriptural text compiled by Charles Jennens from the King James Bible, and from the version of the Psalms included with the Book of Common Prayer. It was first performed in Dublin in 1742 and received its London premiere nearly a year later. After an initially modest public reception, the oratorio gained in popularity, eventually becoming one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works in Western music.

Handel's reputation in England, where he had lived since 1712, had been established through his compositions of Italian opera. He turned to English oratorio in the 1730s, in response to changes in public taste; *Messiah* was his sixth work in this genre. Although its structure resembles that of opera, it is not in dramatic form; there are no impersonations of characters and very little direct speech. Instead, Jennens's text is an extended reflection on Jesus Christ as Messiah. The text begins in Part I with prophecies by Isaiah and others, and moves to the annunciation to the shepherds, the only "scene" taken from the Gospels. In Part II, Handel concentrates on the Passion and ends with the "Hallelujah" chorus. In Part III he covers the resurrection of the dead and Christ's glorification in Heaven.

Handel wrote *Messiah* for modest vocal and instrumental forces, with optional settings for many of the individual numbers. In the years after his death, the work was adapted for performance on a much larger scale, with giant orchestras and choirs. In other efforts to update it, its orchestration was revised and amplified by (among others) Mozart. In the late 20th and early 21st centuries the trend has been towards reproducing a greater fidelity to Handel's original intentions, although "big *Messiah*" productions continue to be mounted.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

Worship: 8:15AM in the Holmes Chapel with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and 10:30AM in the Sanctuary

December 18-Advent IV - The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

St. Joseph; Matthew 1:18-25

December 24-Christmas Eve

Family Service at 5:15 PM

The Westminster Choir School present Britten's festive *Ceremony of Carols* accompanied by harp.

Concert Prelude at 10PM

A concert featuring favorite Handbell carols, and Poulenc's exuberant *Gloria*.

Lessons and Carols at 10:45PM

The Westminster Choirs, Handbell Choir, and musicians from the Buffalo Philharmonic perform music inspired by cultures around the world.

December 25 – Christmas Day - The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

One Worship Service at 10:30AM

Grace Appeared

Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, December 11-Advent III

Jeff on Duty

8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
8:00 AM Senior Choristers
8:15 AM Worship/Communion
9:00 AM Spiritual Life
9:00 AM Case Library Conversations
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
9:00 AM Adult Bible Class
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship
10:40 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Racial Justice Meeting
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
8:00 PM Compline

Monday, December 12

9:00 AM Angel Gift Sorting
7:00 PM Pundit Club Meeting

Tuesday, December 13

7:15 AM Wake Up Group

9:00 AM Management Meeting

5:30 PM Worship, Music & Arts
6:00 PM Zen Dharma
7:00 PM Knitting Group

Wednesday, December 14

9:30 AM Worship Planning Meeting
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
12:00 PM Enews Info. Deadline
1:30 PM Staff Meeting
4:00 PM ENERGY Cleaning Day
4:30 PM Choir School Rehearsal
5:00 PM CMH Board Meeting
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
6:00 PM Choir School Evensong
8:00 PM AA Meeting

Thursday, December 15

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
8:30 AM Centering Prayer
12:15 PM WOW Bible Study
6:00 PM Handbells
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 16

8:30 AM Women on the Rise
9:00 AM Christmas Dinner Set Up
12:00 PM Fridays@Westminster Concert
5:30 PM Taize Service

Saturday, December 17

9:00 AM Christmas Dinner Set Up

Sunday, December 18-Advent IV

Aaron on Duty

8:00 AM Senior Choristers
8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
8:15 AM Worship/Communion
9:00 AM Spiritual Life
9:00 AM Case Library Conversations
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
9:00 AM Adult Bible Class
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship/Christmas Pageant
10:40 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Christmas Dinner

Welcome! We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today.

We invite members and visitors to sign the friendship/registration pad as it is passed during the service. Please indicate if you would like information sent to you or request a call from the pastor.

As a More Light church, we invite all persons of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community to membership and full participation in worship, leadership, service opportunities, and all ministries of Westminster.

We light our peace candle remembering those relatives of Westminster members and all who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our prayers for peace include our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and families.

Bibles are available at the Sanctuary entrances.

Wireless Receivers for hearing assistance are available in the Church Conference Room.

If you need assistance, please ask any Deacon.

MISSION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ENERGY is always in need of plastic folders, spiral note books, notebook paper, pink erasers, dry erase markers, black Sharpie markers, glue sticks, white glue, and Crayola watercolor sets. Additionally, ENERGY can use sturdy paper plates, 7 oz. cups, napkins, plastic forks, cake mix, and frosting cans. Donations may be left on the kitchen counter in the basement ENERGY rooms.

Visit The West Side Bazaar, 25 Grant Street, for lunch and shopping.

Westminster's Alcohol and Drug Education and Referral service has been working quietly and steadily since 1981 to help members and friends with any questions they may have about alcohol or other drugs. Call any of us for free and confidential advice. Phil Stevens, Chair 839-3357; Dave Carstensen 884-5403, Ken Carter 833-9287, Jane Morris 571-481-1839, Ellen Smith 882-2064, Elizabeth Stewart, 585-217-7878, Jim Wieland 523-0217.

Westminster can provide a simple meal for those in need. If you are a member recovering from an illness/surgery, a caregiver with an ill family member, or have had a new baby, please contact Jamie at 884-9437, ext. 326 or email jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org

CHILDCARE AT WESTMINSTER

Childcare for children 5 years old and younger is available from 8:30AM to 11:30AM in the WECP (school) building.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT WESTMINSTER

- Our preschool class meets in the WECP building. After *Time with Children*, children 3-5 year olds leave with their teachers, "Miss Debby" and "Mr. Chris" LaMendola and walk to the building together. In cold weather, the children need their coats. After worship, the children and their teachers meet together in the Holmes Room.
- 1st-5th grade classes: Each month our classes rotate through our three Workshops; Creation Station, Hollywood and Apostles Playhouse.
- 6th-7th grade class meets each Sunday in their classroom on the Parish Hall balcony. Carol Timmerman-Yorty is their teacher.
- Our confirmation class is made up of 8th graders. They meet one-on-one with their mentor until their class begins in January when they meet each Sunday from 9:15AM to 10:15AM in the classroom on the Parish Hall balcony.
- Our Senior Highs – 9th – 12th graders meet each Sunday at 9:30AM in the Parish Hall kitchen for Dialogue Diner.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR SCHOOL

The Senior Choristers, ages 12-18, rehearse each Wednesday, from August 17th through May 31st, 4:30-6PM in the Holmes Chapel. At 6PM, the choristers sing Choral Evensong in the Holmes Chapel, open to everyone. *The Junior Choristers*, ages 7-11, rehearse simultaneously with the Senior Choristers each Wednesday, August 17th through May 31st, 4:30-6PM in the Holmes Chapel, joining the Senior Choristers for the service of Choral Evensong at 6 PM.

The Apprentice Choristers, ages 4-6, rehearse each Sunday, September 18th through May 21st, during the 10:30AM Sunday School in the Holmes Chapel. The Apprentice Choristers are taught fundamental music and choral skills, with the assistance of Dr. Val Cooley and Mrs. Julie Zenger.

Participation in the programs is not limited to Westminster members; all are welcome to join. For more information, please contact Garrett Martin, Organist and Director of Music gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org 884.9437 ext. 318.

BECOME A PART OF OUR LIFE

Anyone who would like to learn more about our community and the many ministries we support is invited to attend a meeting immediately following worship. Our next date is **Sunday, January 22, 2017**, at 12PM. The Rev. Thomas Yorty, Pastor of Westminster, will tell the story of our church along with the current programs of outreach and mission in the city and region. There will be time for conversation and an opportunity to get answers to any questions you may have. Light, healthy refreshments will be served. At the conclusion of the meeting, those who so desire will be received into the membership of the church. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Yorty, tyorty@wpcbuffalo.org or 830-8596, Karen Keaton, khkeaton@verizon.net or any staff member.

SUNDAY MORNING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Adult Bible Study

9:00AM - 10:15AM first classroom on the Parish Hall Balcony

Join our continuing conversation as we explore the Sunday scripture passages. This discussion moves from what the biblical passage means to what this passage might mean in our lives. Our class is led by Debbie Katz and other class members. Our curriculum is *Feasting on the Word*. Please come to these classes as your schedule permits.

Spiritual Life Advent Series: 9:00AM - 10:15AM

December 11 and 18: In the Heritage Room

Connecting Personally with Advent

Presenter: Don McLean

Birth creates change for the future of your family. Jesus' birth created change for the family of mankind. Advent gives us the time to reflect on the spirituality of Jesus and how this change is reflected in our lives and our families.

Case Library Conversations: 9:00AM - 10:15AM in the Case Library

December 11 and 18

We will continue our discussion of *The Third Reconstruction* by Rev. Dr. William Barber. Dr. Bruce Dierenfield will lead the discussions. Books are available from Jamie Adamczyk at the reception desk or from Jerry Kelly at gerald@geraldkelly.com

PASSAGES: A PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

Join us on Tuesday, January 3 for *Passages Goes to the Movies!* The film will be *Lady in the Van* starring Maggie Smith. Note time change! Lunch at noon Movie at 12:45PM. Sign up in the Gallery Room.

THE ANGEL TREE

Look for the decorated Angel Tree in the Gallery Room! Your gift donations will be distributed to various agencies around WNY to help those in need. **Please return Angels Today, Sunday, December 11.** Volunteers are needed: on Monday, December 12, to sort gifts for delivery. All these simple jobs are listed for sign up on the table in the Gallery room. Questions? Contact Ardre Manning 310-5395.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

We need your help in keeping our church records up-to-date. By doing so, we can ensure your family is kept informed about all that's happening at Westminster as we continue to design effective & interesting programming, provide timely Pastoral Care. Forms to update your information can be found on the Information Table in the Gallery Room or at www.wpcbuffalo.org/lets-stay-connected.

WOW - WESTMINSTER KNITTING GROUP

Our meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 13**. The group meets on various Tuesdays throughout the year from 7PM to 9PM. The group works on their individual projects as well as prayer shawls, scarves and other handmade items for members of the church. Beginners welcome! Contact Fran Holmes: mfranholmes@verizon.net for more information and dates.

WOW WINTER RETREAT-JANUARY 27-29, 2017

Flyers with registration forms are available now for our Winter Retreat. Rooms are assigned on a first come, first assigned basis. Sign up for this retreat as soon as you can. Please sign up for lunch on the Information table or call to RSVP with Jamie at the church office 884-9437.

MEN'S RETREAT-JANUARY 20-21, 2017

Capture a Moment: Men's Retreat 2017 at the Byrnclyff Resort, Varysburg, NY. This year's retreat will emphasize fellowship, reflection, discovery and interaction. Spiritual discernment and attentiveness will be our primary focus. Each year the Men's Retreat is designed as opportunities for rest, relaxation, reading, guided discussion about faith issues, worship and time with old and new friends. Registration forms are available on the Information Table in the Gallery Room. A brochure with complete information will soon be available on the Information Table in the Gallery Room. If you would like a brochure mailed to you, call Jamie at 884-9437.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Advent Dinner will be held on Sunday December 18th following the 10:30AM service in Parish Hall. Enjoy a delicious turkey dinner, wonderful side dishes (this year we've included macaroni and cheese!) and plenty of food for all ages. Vegetarian meals are available with advance request. There will be a family activity of learning about the Jesse Tree, making ornaments and Advent activities. Give yourself the present of personal time. Let yourself relax with church family as you unwind and consider the gifts of the season. Reservation forms are available in the Gallery Room. Prices are: \$12 for ages 9 and over (no charge for under 8), \$45 for a family. Sponsored by Congregational Life

WESTMINSTER PRESENTS

Fridays at Westminster: Come for the music - Stay for lunch! Each Friday, local Buffalo artists present a 30 minute lunchtime recital in Westminster's Historic Sanctuary at noon. Lunch provided by a local food truck. Donations benefit the *Westminster Friends of Music*.

December 16: Hillary Hunt and Special Guests

Choral Evensong: Every Wednesday at 6PM in the Holmes Chapel. The Choristers of the Westminster Choir School lead this service showcasing repertoire they are studying.

Taizé Worship: Fridays, December 16, January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, and May 19 at 5:30 PM. Start your weekend with this evening service of calming prayer and meditation.

Choral Evensong: Sundays, January 29, March 12, and April 9 at 4:00 PM. The Westminster Choirs and visiting choirs present this service of Evening Prayer. Join us for an organ prelude recital at 3:30 PM.

Compline: Sundays, December 11 and February 12 at 8 PM. The Westminster Schola offers this candlelit service featuring music from Gregorian chant and early polyphony.

MEET & MINGLE - FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Please join us in the Holmes Room immediately following the 10:30am worship service for "a relaxed and inviting fellowship opportunity. *Meet & Mingle* offers beverages, light healthy snacks and provides a meaningful time of gathering and bonding for our congregation.

Heavenly Grounds Café. Continue to stop by the Heavenly Grounds Café in the Oak Room which is open from 9AM to noon with coffee service until 10:30AM.

We need YOUR help! The new "Meet & Mingle" event after the 10:30AM church service is a great success! Thanks to everyone for participating! In order to keep it running successfully we are looking for YOU to help in one of the following ways:

1. Be a shopper – purchase the food from a list provided on a regular basis and bring to church for storage. Bring receipts for reimbursement.

2. Be a host for the week – each week we are looking for a different family to serve as the host. The hosts would come early to church to make the punch and put the food on serving plates before the 10:30 service; also monitor the need to refill punch or food platters; and clean up dirty dishes, put unused food away, and take home tablecloths to be laundered and returned.

Our hosts this week are: **Mindy and Cameron Airhart**

3. Be a sponsor – make a donation to WPC to cover the weekly costs. As you reflect on how you can best give of your time, talent and treasure, please contact Debby LaMendola (716-983-4993) and let her know how YOU can help!

Our sponsors this week is: **Chris and Debby LaMendola**

ORDER SUNDAY FLOWERS

If you would like to purchase Sunday flowers in honor/memory of family or friends, there is a monthly sign up on the kiosk in the Gallery Room. You may also call Sue Adams at 883-7597 or email her: hugwalker1@gmail.com

AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

Friday, January 13 at 7:30 PM, Saturday, January 14 at 7:30 PM, Sunday, January 15 at 10:30AM (in worship-no charge) and 2:30 PM.

Amahl and his Mother meet the Three Kings and learn a valuable holiday lesson in this classic opera. Tickets, \$20, at the door and will soon be available at wpcbuffalo.org Music educators, ask about a special school-time performance on Friday, January 13 at 10AM.

WHAT DO I BELIEVE?

Few Christians arrive at a set of beliefs that are then set in stone for the rest of their lives. What we believe often evolves through Bible study and worship services. Personal experiences--both joyous and traumatic--impact our faith. World events can shape what we believe about God's presence in the world and in our lives. Faith is an evolving experience that can define much of who we are and who we may become. If you would enjoy exploring and discussing your faith and what you believe, mark your calendars now and plan on joining the "What Do I Believe: Naming and Nurturing our Faith" conversation. This group will meet Saturday mornings from 9:30AM to 12:30 p.m. beginning January 14 & 21, 2017 and then February 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2017. We'll begin with coffee and bagels as we watch videos and discuss ideas from Ronald J. Allen's *A Faith of Your Own*. The purpose of this time together is to articulate and name what we believe. The leaders of this invigorating six-part series are Debbie Katz and Jen Callaghan. "To help with our preparation, If you are planning on coming to this series, please sign up on the information table or contact Debbie Katz at dkatz@wpcbuffalo.org."

Worship in the Holmes Chapel - 8:15AM

*The Gathering is an opportunity for worshippers to greet one another and to share prayer concerns.
An offering plate has been placed on the Communion Table to receive your gifts.*

Chiming of the Trinity

The sounding of the chimes, invoking Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit, is an invitation to prepare for worship through a time of silent reflection. Please be respectful of those who are praying.

Opening Voluntary

Chorale

William Mathias (1934-1992)

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Yorty

Call to Worship

The people stand and remain standing for the hymn.

Hymn, No. 13

Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prayer Of Confession

**God of majesty and glory,
we are thirsty for your grace.
You made a way for us in the wilderness,
and still, in our foolishness, we go astray.
We hide our eyes from your presence.
We do not listen to your word.
We are lifeless when we ought to dance and
speechless when we ought to sing.
Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
strengthen our weak hands,
and make firm our feeble knees
as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.**

Time for silent prayer

Kyrie

The people sing.

John Weaver (1984)



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Words of Assurance

Response

Stand to sing.

GLORIA PATRI



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be -
gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

James 5:7-10, Isaiah 35:1-10

Text can be found on page 3.

Anthem

Recitative and Air

Georg Friedrich Händel

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing. (Isaiah 35:5-6)

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm,
And carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40:11)

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, He will give you rest.
Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart,
And ye shall find rest unto your souls. (Matthew 11:28-29)

Meditation

Patience In These Times

Prayers of the People

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

We will distribute the elements of communion today by intinction – simply take the bread and dip it in the cup. It is appropriate to say “Amen” or “Thanks be to God” when receiving the bread and the cup as they are gifts of God for the people of God. Westminster Presbyterian Church serves only gluten free bread in Communion. Please take the center aisle to one of the communion stations, receive the elements, and return to your seat by a side aisle.

Sending Hymn, No. 3

Comfort, Comfort You My People
The people stand to sing.

PSALM 42

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Postlude

William Mathias

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor
Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries
Brian Glikes, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar
Senior Choristers of the Westminster Choir School

GIVING 2017



Pledges received as of 12/09/16

Number of Pledges Received	Total Pledges Received	Dollars to Goal
171	\$380,222	\$219,778

Westminster's Giving 2017 is well underway! Pledge cards have been distributed and we ask that you please return your signed pledge card by **Today, Sunday, December 11**. There is a basket on the table in the Holmes Room where you can place your completed Pledge Card. **For your convenience, you may make a pledge or a pledge payment on our secure site at www.wpcbuffalo.org/giving**. Our goal this year is \$600,000. As you prayerfully consider your pledge, please remember that if everyone who pledged last year would, on average, increase their pledge by \$353.00, or \$6.80 per week we could successfully accomplish our goal. Thank you for being a contributing member of this church as your pledge - in any amount makes us a stronger congregation.



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