



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

December 18, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary



An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'

- Matthew 1:20

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

Meditation on *Veni Emmanuel*

Stuart Forster† (b. 1972)

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.

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Carrie, Julia, and Valerie Warszawski light the fourth Advent candle.

We light this candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in your kingdom on earth.

For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind.

We rejoice in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Call to Worship

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

Hymn in Procession

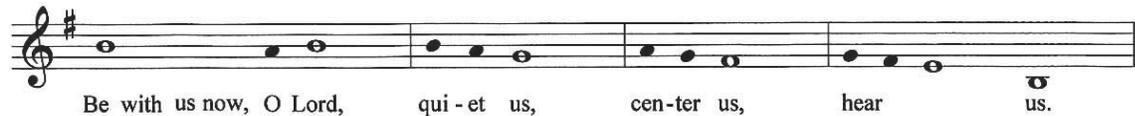
Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Please see insert for hymn.

ABBOT'S LEIGH

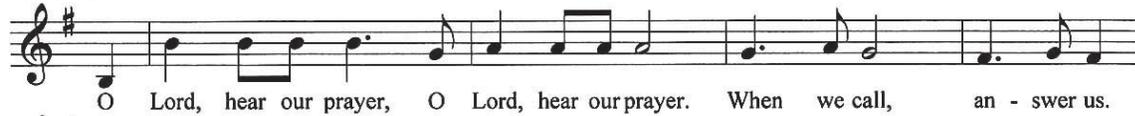
Call to Confession

Cantor:

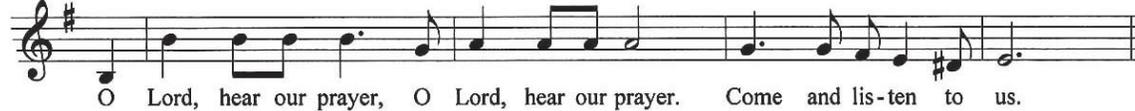


Be with us now, O Lord, qui - et us, cen-ter us, hear us.

Congregation:



O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer. When we call, an - swer us.



O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer. Come and lis - ten to us.

Prayer Of Confession

God, our Savior, we ask for your mercy.

**Though we have heard Mary's song,
we will still seek security in pride and power and possessions.**

Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you.

We pass by those considered lowly in this world.

We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be fulfilled.

Forgive us, we pray.

Help us to work for the justice you intend.

Make us messengers of the peace you bring.

As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. 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

The Children's Story - Prince of Peace

Please see insert.

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

Psalm Lesson

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Plainchant Tone I.2

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

³Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

⁴Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

¹⁶Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁷And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

¹⁸Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Sermon

St. Joseph

Hymn

Light One Candle

TIF IN VEDLELE

The people stand to sing. Please see insert for hymn.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

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

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Somerset Folk Song, arr. Alan Bullard (b. 1947)

The tree of life my soul has seen, laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but never can tell,
The glory which I now can see, in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see, 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest a while:
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying flesh alive:
Which makes my soul in haste to be, with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

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 bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures 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. 1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
The people stand to sing.

STUTTGART

Benediction and Choral Response

Nunc Dimittis

Richard Shephard ** (b. 1949), Service in E-Flat

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word;
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
To be a light to lighten the gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Closing Voluntary

Fugue on *Wachet auf, ruft und die Stimme*

Max Reger (1873-1916)

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
John Heer, Reader
Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries
Brian Glikes, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar
The Senior Choristers of the Westminster Choir School

Deacons Serving Today

Cameron Airhart, Shea Akers, Kate Dierenfield, Doug Fabian, Carol Huber, Kristen Kifner-Kennedy,
Joan Kunzia, Jo Stevens, Ron Sutz

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

†**Stuart Forster** has been Director of Music and Organist at Christ Church, the Episcopal Church in Harvard Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts, since 1999. His performances as soloist, accompanist, and conductor have been broadcast around the world, and he has recorded numerous CDs, including solo performances on the JAV and Pro Organo labels. His book, *Hymn Playing: A Modern Colloquium*, draws on interviews with leading church musicians to document expert techniques of hymn leadership and accompaniment with the organ. Dr. Forster has written orchestral transcriptions for the organ, liturgical music for congregations (including more than 100 hymn arrangements), and choral anthems. His landmark organ transcription of Dvořák's *Ninth Symphony*, "From the New World," has been published and recorded, and it is frequently performed.

Dr. Forster holds qualifications from Trinity College of Music (London), the University of Sydney, the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Yale University, and the Graduate Theological Foundation, where his doctorate focused on the congregation's experience of flow and music within liturgy. A dedicated organist and choir trainer, Dr. Forster's passion for leading congregational singing has guided his vocation both in the church and as a teacher.

††**Richard Shephard** was educated at The King's School, Gloucester and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He is Chamberlain of Yorkminster, head of their development department, and Honorary Visiting Fellow in the Music Department of the University of York. His compositions include operas, oratorios and orchestral works but it is perhaps for his church music that he is best known. His anthems and service settings are sung widely in the cathedrals and churches of the UK and they have a considerable following in the USA. He holds the Lambeth Doctorate of Music from Oxford University and two Honorary Doctorates from the University of the South (Sevane, TN) and the University of York (York, UK).

OneLicense.net license #A-722967.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

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

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 at 10PM

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

Lessons and Carols at 10:45PM

The Westminster Choirs 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 18

Aaron 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 Adult Bible Class
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
9:00 AM Case Library Conversations
9:00 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
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

Tuesday, December 20

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
9:00 AM Management Meeting
6:00 PM Zen Dharma
6:00 PM Mission Outreach Meeting
7:00 PM WECP Parent Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 21

9:30 AM Worship Planning Meeting
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
12:00 PM Enews Info. Deadline
1:30 PM Staff Meeting
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
6:00 PM Choir School Evensong
7:30 PM Voice & Guitar Concert
8:00 PM AA Meeting

Thursday, December 22

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
8:30 AM Centering Prayer
6:00 PM Handbells
7:30 PM Christmas Late Rehearsal

Saturday, December 24

Jeff & Aaron on Duty
3:45 PM Chorister Rehearsal
5:15 PM Christmas Eve Family Service
9:30 PM Youth College Reunion
10:00 PM Christmas Eve Concert
10:45 PM Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 25

Jeff on Duty
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
10:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle

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 in the Heritage Room

December 18:

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.

January 8:

Poetry Reading and Reflections on "Secrets and Revelations"

Presenter: Ansie Baird

Ansie's poems are elegant, symbolic and thought provoking. She usually stirs our group up with morsels that lead to deep questions as well as lively conversations.

Case Library Conversations

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

December 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

Travelogue Series

January 8, 15, 22, and 29:

Westminsterites will present slide shows and share with us their travel experiences in a 4-week series.

PASSAGES: A PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

Passages Goes to the Movies! Join us on January 3 for *Lady in the Van* starring Maggie Smith. **Note the change in time: Lunch at noon, movie at 12:45PM.** Please sign up on the Information Table in the Gallery Room if you will be having lunch. Or, please call Jamie at 884-9437, ext. 326.

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, January 10 (tentative)**. 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 today, 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*.

January 20

Garrett Martin, Organ

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, 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: Sunday, 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.

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!

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 lesson in this classic opera. Tickets, \$20, at the door and will soon be available at wpcbuffalo.org. Patron tickets, \$50. 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

Meditation on *Veni Emmanuel*

Stuart Forster† (b. 1972)

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Yorty

Call to Worship

The people stand and remain standing for the hymn.

Hymn

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

ABBOT'S LEIGH

Please see insert for hymn

Prayer Of Confession

**God, our Savior, we ask for your mercy.
Though we have heard Mary's song,
we will still seek security in pride and power and possessions.
Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you.
We pass by those considered lowly in this world.
We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be fulfilled.
Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend.
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.
As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. 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

Psalm Lesson

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Plainchant Tone I.2

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. ³Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. ⁴Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. ⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. ¹⁶Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself. ¹⁷And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name. ¹⁸Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

Text can be found on page 3.

Anthem

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Somerset Folk Song, arr. Alan Bullard (b. 1947)

The tree of life my soul has seen, laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but never can tell,
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest a while:
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying flesh alive:
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Meditation

St. Joseph

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. 1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

The people stand to sing.

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Fugue on *Wachet auf, ruft und die Stimme*

Max Reger (1873-1916)

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 12/16/16

Number of Pledges Received	Total Pledges Received	Dollars to Goal
188	\$402,544	\$197,456

Westminster's Giving 2017 is well underway! Pledge cards have been distributed and we ask that you please return your signed pledge card by **the end of 2016**. 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.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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