



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

January 3, 2016
Second Sunday After Christmas
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary



And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. —John 1:14

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, for those who will shortly lead our common worship. Latecomers may enter the Sanctuary during the singing of the first hymn or during the Response to the Assurance. Ushers are available for assistance. Please turn off all cell phones.

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.

Opening Voluntary

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen, Op 122, No. 8

Johannes Brahms† (1833-1897)

Introit

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Plainsong, arr. Craig Courtney (b. 1954)

Of the Father's Love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He;
Of the things that are, that have been, and future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

O ye things of heaven adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore.

Call to Worship

The people stand and remain standing for the hymn.

Opening Hymn, No. 53

What Child is This?

GREENSLEEVES

Call to Confession

Cantor:



Congregation:



Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we are a distracted people
and forgetful of your love.
We make selfish choices,
hurt each other, and perpetuate injustice in your world.
We have sinned against you and are deeply sorry
and repent of our disregard of you, each other, and your creation.
By the power of your Spirit, forgive, restore, and strengthen us
to live in your light and walk in your truth; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence is kept.

Kyrie

The people sing.

John Weaver (1984)



Assurance of Pardon

Response

The people stand to sing.

GLORIA (refrain)



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).

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

John 1:1-18

Hymn, No. 56

The First Nowell
The people stand to sing.

THE FIRST NOWELL

Sermon

In the Beginning

Hymn, No. 61

'Twas the Moon of Wintertime
The people stand to sing.

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*The Deacons receive the gifts, a portion of the blessings God has given us, which we return unto God.
Worshippers are invited to sign the Friendship Pad located in the aisle seat of each pew and then please pass it to others in the pew.*

Gentle Jesus, Meek and Mild

Martin Shaw, arr. Steven Kimbrough (b. 1948)

Gentle Jesus, meek and mild, look upon a little child;
Pity my simplicity; suffer me to come to thee.

Lamb of God, I look to thee; thou shalt my example be:
Thou art gentle, meek and mild; thou wast once a little child.

Fain I would be as thou art; give me thine obedient heart:
Thou art plentiful and kind; let me have thy loving mind.

Loving Jesus, Gentle Lamb, in thy gracious hands I am;
Make me, Savior, what thou art, live thyself within my heart. (text: Charles Wesley)

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*It is the practice of this congregation to welcome all baptized persons, including those children whose parents have given their permission, to join in receiving the elements.
Unfermented grape juice is used.*

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,
God of majesty and splendor....

Sanctus & Benedictus

**Holy, holy Lord most holy, God of power and God of might;
Heaven and earth reveal your glory, hail, hosanna, Lord of light!
Blessed be the coming Saviour, hail, hosanna, Lord of light!**

You are holy, O God of majesty....

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

**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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

We will distribute the elements of communion today by intinction – simply take the bread and dip 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. On each tray there are wafers of gluten-free bread in a separate dish. Please take the right side (facing the chancel) of the aisle closest to you to receive the elements and return to your pew on the right side of the same aisle.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God, our help:
we thank you for this supper shared in the Spirit with your Son Jesus,
who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal.
We praise you for giving us all good gifts in him,
and pledge ourselves to serve you, even as in Christ you served us. Amen.**

Sending Hymn, No. 43

O Little Town of Bethlehem
The people stand to sing.

FOREST GREEN

Benediction and Response

A Clare Benediction

John Rutter (b. 1945)

May the Lord show his mercy upon you; may the light of his presence be by your guide:
May he guard you and uphold you; may his spirit be ever by your side.
When you sleep, may his angels watch over you; when you wake, may he fill you with his grace.
May you love him and serve him all your days, then in heaven may you see his face.

Closing Voluntary

In dir ist Freude, BWV 615

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*A service for healing and wholeness will be held in the Meditation Room immediately following the service today.
All are invited to gather for fellowship and refreshments in the Oak Room, following the Service.*

Worship Leaders

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty
Organist: Käthe Wright Kaufman, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar
Solorist: Victor Schuel, baritone

Elders Serving Today

Bill Gray, Mark Hall, Jack Jacobs, Karen Keaton, Chris Lamendola, Sandy Laub, Tom Warszawski

Deacons Serving Today

Patty Charlier, Warren Emblidge, Doug Fabian, Cathy Forrest, Kathleen Kelly, Joan Kuzina, Becky Read-Lukan
Mike Reynolds, Roh-Yu Shen, Roy Stewart

Christmas Decorations

The Decorations in the Chancel are given graciously by a generous Westminster member.
The Christmas Tree in the Narthex is a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Speth.

NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

†**Johannes Brahms** was a German composer and pianist. Born in Hamburg into a Lutheran family, Brahms spent much of his professional life in Vienna, Austria. In his lifetime, Brahms's popularity and influence were considerable. He is sometimes grouped with Johann Sebastian Bach and Ludwig van Beethoven as one of the "Three Bs", a comment originally made by the nineteenth-century conductor Hans von Bülow.

Brahms composed for piano, chamber ensembles, symphony orchestra, and for voice and chorus. A virtuoso pianist, he premiered many of his own works. He worked with some of the leading performers of his time, including the pianist Clara Schumann and the violinist Joseph Joachim (the three were close friends). Many of his works have become staples of the modern concert repertoire. Brahms, an uncompromising perfectionist, destroyed some of his works and left others unpublished.

Brahms is often considered both a traditionalist and an innovator. His music is firmly rooted in the structures and compositional techniques of the Baroque and Classical masters. He was a master of counterpoint, the complex and highly disciplined art for which Johann Sebastian Bach is famous, and of development, a compositional ethos pioneered by Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, and other composers. Brahms aimed to honour the "purity" of these venerable "German" structures and advance them into a Romantic idiom, in the process creating bold new approaches to harmony and melody. While many contemporaries found his music too academic, his contribution and craftsmanship have been admired by subsequent figures as diverse as Arnold Schoenberg and Edward Elgar. The diligent, highly constructed nature of Brahms's works was a starting point and an inspiration for a generation of

WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

8:45AM in the Holmes Chapel with Communion and 11:00AM in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty will preach in the month of January

January 10 -Amahl and the Night Visitors

January 17 -John 2:1-11; *The First Miracle*

January 24- Luke 4:14-21; *Filled with Power - the Leaders*

January 31-Luke 4:21-30; *Filled with Power -the Congregation*

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, January 3

Maintenance-Jeff
Name Tag Sunday
8:30 AM Infant/Toddler Care
8:45 AM Worship/Communion
9:30 AM Heavenly Grounds
9:35 AM Adult Bible Class
9:35 AM Spiritual Life
11:00 AM Worship
12:00 PM Healing Service
1:00 PM Amahl and the Night Visitors

Monday, January 4-WPC Closed

10:00 AM Amahl and the Night Visitors
6:00 PM Amahl and the Night Visitors

Tuesday, January 5

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
12:30 PM Passages Lunch
1:00 PM Amahl and the Night Visitors
1:15 PM Passages Program
4:00 PM ENERGY Program
6:00 PM Zen Dharma

Wednesday, January 6

12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
1:30 PM Staff Mtg.
4:00 PM Case Library Committee
4:00 PM WPC Endowment Mtg.
4:00 PM ENERGY Program
4:30 PM WPC Choir School
5:00 PM Spiritual Life Mtg.
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
6:00 PM Amahl and the Night Visitors
8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, January 7

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
8:30 AM Centering Prayer
4:00 PM ENERGY Program
6:00 PM Handbells
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 8

6:00 PM Gay Bingo Set-Up
6:00 PM Amahl and the Night Visitors
7:00 PM Confirmation retreat

Saturday, January 9

12:00 AM Confirmation Retreat
2:00 PM Amahl
6:00 PM Gay Bingo

Sunday, January 10

12:00 AM Confirmation Retreat
6:30 AM Maintenance-Jeff
8:30 AM Infant/Toddler Care
8:45 AM Worship/Communion
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
9:30 AM Heavenly Grounds
9:35 AM Adult Bible Class
9:35 AM Case Library Series
9:35 AM Spiritual Life
11:00 AM Worship
11:10 AM Sunday School
12:30 PM Dream Group 1
12:30 PM Inquirer's Mtg./Light Refreshments
2:00 PM Amahl and the Night Visitors
7:00 PM WOW Book Discussion

GIVING 2016
GRATITUDE IN EVERY *Action*



Pledges received as of 12/23/15

Number of Pledges Received	Total Pledges Received	Dollars to Goal
193	398,375	201,625

We ask that you consider the blessing that Westminster is in your life and with a grateful heart by sending your Intention Card back with support for 2016. Giving your financial pledge will enable Westminster to continue to show our gratitude to God by sharing our blessings within our church home and our community. There are several ways to share your intention: Return your intention card by mail or make your pledge online at www.wpcbuffalo.org/pledge2016 or email Nancy Berger, nberger@wpcbuffalo.org Please give - every gift counts!

WESTMINSTER PRESENTS

Fridays @ Westminster!
Come for Music, Stay for Lunch

Each Friday, a 30 minute lunchtime concert featuring local Buffalo artists will play in our historic Sanctuary, from Noon until 12:30PM. A Food Truck will be at Westminster each Friday, so stay for lunch! Donations benefit the Westminster Friends of Music.

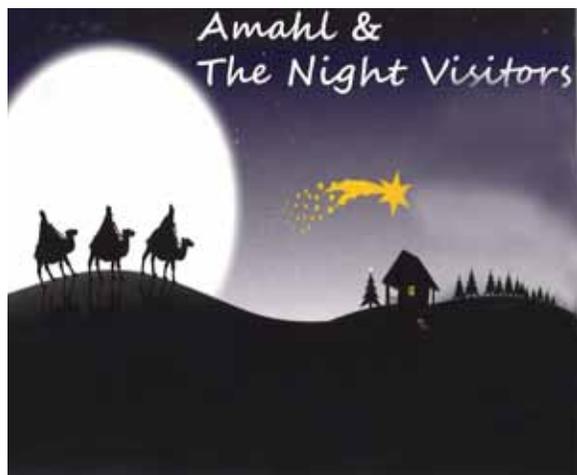
- 15 January: Garrett Martin, organ
- 22 January: Marie Karbacka, soprano
EunJoo Jeon, piano
- 29 January: Jacqueline Quick, soprano
Matt Marco, piano

- 5 February: John Novak, organ
- 12 February: Jordan Williams, organ

Taizé Service-Friday, January 15
 Westminster will offer a Taizé service of music, prayer and contemplation on the third Friday of each month.

Masterworks Service
 Sunday, March 13
 The Choirs of Westminster and musicians of the BPO present two choral and orchestral masterworks:
 Andrew Carter's *Benedicite* and
 Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*.

Amahl & The Night Visitors



Based on Italian folk tales of the Nativity and Epiphany, Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* is a retelling of the story of the Magi from the point of view of a young disabled boy named Amahl. At Westminster in the Sanctuary.
 Tickets: \$16 Adults/\$8 Children
 Friday, January 8 at 7PM
 Saturday, January 9 at 3PM
 Sunday, January 10 at 11AM in worship (no charge)
 Sunday, January 10 at 3PM
 For Tickets: <http://bit.ly/1NcfsEF> Presented by: Nickel City Opera

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 & 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

The ENERGY Program - creates a caring environment where refugee and migrant students, grades 1-6 from Buffalo's West Side gain social and cultural awareness and self-confidence through improving their English language skills. Contact Carol Greetham at 507-8216 or carol@wedibuffalo.org for more information, to donate or to volunteer.

The West Side Bazaar: 25 Grant Street. Lunch and shopping.

Friday: 11 AM – 8PM, Saturday, 10 AM – 8PM

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 11AM – 7PM

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, Ellen Smith 882-2064, Jim Wieland 523-0217.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Childcare is available for children under the age of 5 years from 9:30AM to 12:30AM in the WECP building. Childcare providers will meet with parents and children at the entrance to the Westminster Early Childhood Programs (WECP) school building. Weather permitting, the children will be able to play in the playground.

- 3-5 year olds: Mrs. Debby & Mr. Chris LaMendola are our beloved pre-school teachers. The three through five year class meets in the Early Childhood building. The children and their teachers walk to the building together and in cold weather, the children need their coats.

- 1st - 5th graders: Each month their class rotates through our three Rotation Workshops: Creation Station, Holywood and Apostles Playhouse

- 6th & 7th graders meet with their teacher, Marta Butzer, each Sunday in the last classroom on the Parish Hall balcony.

- 8th grader Confirmation Class meets 9:45-10:45AM in Parish Hall balcony

- Our Senior Highs (9th through 12th graders) meet each Sunday at 9:30AM in the Parish Hall kitchen for Dialog Diner.

PASSAGES: A PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

Lunch at 12:30PM in the Oak Room, 1:15PM program in the Case Library. The first Tuesday of each month. These programs vary between speakers, mu-

sic concerts and films with a focus on the intellectual, physical and spiritual life of retired adults. Please sign up on the table in the Gallery Room, or RSVP to Jamie, 884-9437 or jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org Save the Date: Passages January 5th Come join us when Passages goes to the movies. We will view *The Other Son* a film by Lorraine Levy set in Jerusalem.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR SCHOOL

The Senior Choristers, ages 12-18, rehearse each Wednesday, September through May, 5:30-6:30PM in the Holmes Chapel. The Senior Choristers produce a high volume of quality choral repertoire each week for use in worship and concert.

The Junior Choristers, ages 7-11, rehearse simultaneously with the Senior Choristers each Wednesday, September through May, 5:30-6:30PM in the Holmes Chapel, with the assistance of Ms. Hillary Hunt. The Junior Choristers further their ability to read music and various languages while shaping the voice into a beautiful treble instrument.

The Apprentice Choristers, ages 4-6, rehearse each Wednesday, September through May, 4:30-5:15PM in the Holmes Chapel. The Apprentice Choristers are taught fundamental music and choral skills, with the assistance of Dr. Val Cooley. 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 February date will be announced. 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.

YOUTH EVENTS - C.I.A (Christians in Action)

Sunday, December 20: NO Dialogue Diner

11a – Christmas Pageant during the 11am service

Thursday, December 24: 5:15pm Family Service

9:30pm Youth & Young Adult Gathering in the Case Library

10:45pm Lessons & Carols Service

SUNDAY MORNING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

9:35AM - 10:45AM in the first room on the balcony on the 3rd floor. Our class welcomes adults who are interested in exploring the Christian story, by studying the scripture and applying those lessons learned to our present lives. Come as your schedule permits. This class uses Feasting on the Word curriculum which explores the Bible passages used in worship.

CASE LIBRARY CONVERSATIONS

January 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2016

Travelogue Series

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

January 10:

Ride of the brotherhood: China and Western Afghanistan
Reed Stevens and Greg Stevens

January 17:

Fred Cooley will present the story of evolving watercolor skills in the context of a marriage, sailing, art, and seeing in general. 25 years of sailboat cruising (and 70 years of photography starting with a Brownie Hawkeye) have presented a rich environment in which nascent watercoloring skills (very little previous art classes or practice) could be developed. Photos and/or paintings by Val and Fred will be used to demonstrate the points being made in the discussion. If the painting is too small, it will be projected on the screen.

January 24:

Sultry Singapore

....and how it grew into a first-world nation in 50 (busy!) years.

Presented by Claude Welch

Once an island of small enclaves – called kampongs – Singapore was booted out of Malaysia in 1965. Redefining itself as a pluralistic state (Chinese, Malay, and south Indian) it took up the challenge of public housing, universal required bilingualism, and hard work to become one of the leading economies of the world today. See the modern skyline side-by-side with quaint yet vibrant ethnic communities. Check out the everyday “wet markets” and hawker stalls, ultramodern malls, and religious holidays that mark the cultural landscape of this fascinating tropical urban nation.

January 31:

Presented by David Weeks and Debbie Erwin

Take a walk with David Weeks and Debbie Erwin across northern England from the Irish Sea to the North Sea. You’ll cross three national parks from the Lake District to the Yorkshire Dales and finally the North Yorkshire Moors.

Trace the famous Wainwrights’ Coast to Coast Trail for 135 miles, through Wordsworth’s inspirational landscapes and James Herriot’s beloved dales and across the windswept moors with a stop or two at country inns and pubs. We’ll also make a brief visit to David’s ancestral home in the rolling farmland of Devon in southwest England’s west country.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

January 10 & 17, 2016

Presenter: Ansie Baird

Poet Ansie Baird will lead us in a discussion and writing exercises related to transformation

January 24

Prayer Beads

Presenter: Joan Kuznia

Create your own prayer beads.

MEN’S & WOMEN’S RETREATS - SAVE THE DATES!

The Women’s Retreat is Friday, January 29– Sunday, January 31, 2016 at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center, Bemus Point, NY. Registration forms are on the Information Table. Reserve your room by January 3rd.

The Men’s Retreat is Friday, January 22 & Saturday, January 23, 2016 at Byrneliff Resort. Registration forms, brochure with schedule and reading material are on the Information Table in the Gallery Room.



The Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI) Board of Directors Invites You To

*The Newly Renovated Social Hall
Campbell Student Union
SUNY Buffalo State
1800 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222*

February 5, 2016

6:30PM – 9:30PM

*Fun & Festivities
Food Stations*

*Provided by The West Side Bazaar
One Complimentary glass of beer or wine
Complimentary Valet Parking included
Live and Silent Auctions,
Interactive Displays*

*Music provided by
Kelly Bucheger and
What Would Mingus Do? (WWMD)*

RSVP by January 23, 2016

Winterfest2016.brownpapertickets.com

Worship in the Holmes Chapel - 8:45 a.m.

*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

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen, Op 122, No. 8

Johannes Brahms †(1833-1897)

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Yorty

Call to Worship

The people stand and remain standing for the hymn.

Opening Hymn, No. 53

What Child is This?

GREENSLEEVES

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
we confess that we are a distracted people
and forgetful of your love.
We make selfish choices,
hurt each other,
and perpetuate injustice in your world.
We have sinned against you
and are deeply sorry
and repent of our disregard of you,
each other, and your creation.
By the power of your Spirit,
forgive, restore, and strengthen us
to live in your light and walk in your truth;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Silence is kept.

Kyrie *The people sing.*

John Weaver (1984)



Words of Assurance

Response

The people stand to sing.



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

John 1:1-18

Meditation

In the Beginning

Prayers of the People

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sending Hymn, No. 43

O Little Town of Bethlehem
The people stand to sing.

FOREST GREEN

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

In dir ist Freude, BWV 615

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

Organist: Käthe Wright Kaufman, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Westminster Presbyterian Church

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