



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

March 12, 2017
Second Sunday in Lent
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary



For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but may have eternal life.

- John 3:16

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.

Opening Voluntary

Cantabile

Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

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

If Ye Love Me

Carson Cooman (b. 1982)

If ye love me, keep my commandments,
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter,
That he may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth.

Call to Worship

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

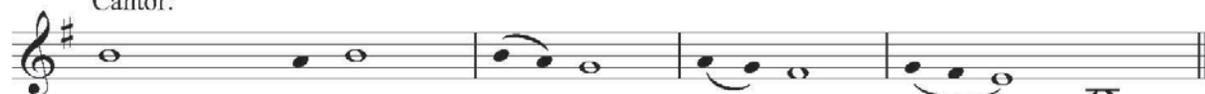
Hymn in Procession, No. 488

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

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.

**Gracious God,
we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace.
You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not.
We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead.
We justify our actions and words,
though we know they are not what you require.
We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers,
preferring old habits to risky change.
Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ,
trusting that you have included us by grace
in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Time for silent prayer

Kyrie

The people sing.

John Weaver (1984)



Assurance of Pardon

Response

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

TALLIS CANON

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

Psalm 121

Plainchant Tone VI

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? ²My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep; ⁴Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep; ⁵The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. ⁶So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe. ⁸The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth, forevermore.

Genesis 12:1-4a

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ ⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ ³Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ ⁴Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ ⁵Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ ⁹Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ ¹⁰Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Hymn

The Summons

KELVINGROVE

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

Sermon

The Importance of Questioning: On Not Being Afraid To Ask

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

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

O Sacrum Convivium

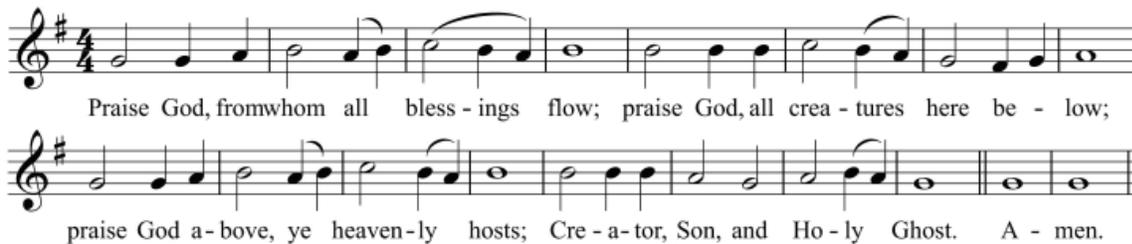
Franz Liszt† (1811-1886)

*O sacrum convivium!
in quo Christus sumitur:
recolitur memoria passionis eius:
mens impletur gratia:
et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.*

O sacred banquet!
in which Christ is received,
the memory of his Passion is renewed,
the mind is filled with grace,
and a pledge of future glory to us is given.

Presentation of the Gifts

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



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures here be - low;
praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly hosts; Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

HAMBURG

Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts,
but also ourselves, in deep gratitude-for your call on our lives,
your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us
that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring
for your own good purposes. In Christ 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. 602

Song of Zechariah
The people stand to sing.

MERLE'S TUNE

Benediction and Choral Response

Steal Away

Spiritual, arr. Malcolm Archer^{††} (b.1952)

Steal away to Jesus. Steal away home; I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord, he calls me by the thunder.
Green trees abending poor sinner stands trembling.
The trumpet sounds within my soul.

Closing Voluntary

Chorale

Joseph Jongen

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

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor
The Reverend Beth Hennessy, Pastoral Care Associate
Dr. Phillips Stevens, Liturgist
Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries
Brian Glikes, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar
Senior Choristers of the Westminster Choir School

Deacons Serving Today

Patty Charlier, Carol Huber, Kathleen Kelly, Kirsten Kifner-Kennedy, Donald Kitungano, Joan Kuznia
Johnpatrick Marr, Jennifer Russell, Roy Stewart

Notes on Today's Music

[†]**Franz Liszt** was a Hungarian concert pianist and composer, known both for his status as the first “rock star” of the piano, and for the technically demanding nature of his compositions. More so than any other figure before him, Liszt’s recitals (performed entirely from memory—also a first) attracted large crowds of women that would storm the stage for a chance to meet the long-haired celebrity. After taking the four minor orders of the Roman Catholic Church in the 1860s, Liszt became interested in sacred music, and his compositions became reserved, and introspective. This morning’s Offertory is an example of this style.

^{††}**Malcolm Archer** is a British Composer, Conductor, and Organist. He currently serves as Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College (England), and has enjoyed commissions and guest conducting engagements from around the world. Formerly on staff at St. Paul’s Cathedral, London, he directed the choir for numerous State services, including the 80th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.

PREACHING AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship: 8:15AM in the Holmes Chapel with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper and 10:30AM in the Sanctuary. Rev. Yorty will preach in March.

Preaching and Worship in Lent

Lent from the Old English means ‘to lengthen.’ In Lent the days begin to lengthen, the natural world around us stretches out of its winter slumber sunward and we, too, find our hearts and minds opening up to burgeoning life all around.

This season of the year was used and still is in some traditions for new converts to the Christian faith to prepare for their baptisms on Easter Day. So the weeks of Lent at Westminster have also been focused over the years on deepening and growing our personal faith and our congregation work and witness.

The sermons this Lent will address the organic nature of our faith – as a living, growing thing – a seed per Jesus’ Parable of the Sower – that requires good soil, nurture and care. I invite you to join me Sundays as we consider the biblical stories that take us from the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness to the encounter of Jesus and Nicodemus to the woman at the well, to the man born blind, to dead Lazarus in his tomb. These stories are all moments of crisis in personal faith. But in each case, a way opens up unexpectedly, surprisingly, astonishingly.

Today, March 12

Choral Evensong: at 4:00PM

The Senior Choristers of the Westminster Choir School and visiting choirs present this service of Evening Prayer.

A reception will follow. Join us for an organ prelude recital at 3:30PM.

March 19- Lent III

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

Masterworks: Bob Chilcott’s *St. John Passion*

The Importance of Using Your Voice: On Speaking Up

John 4:5-42

March 26-Lent IV

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

The Importance of Personal Experience: Not Just Libraries

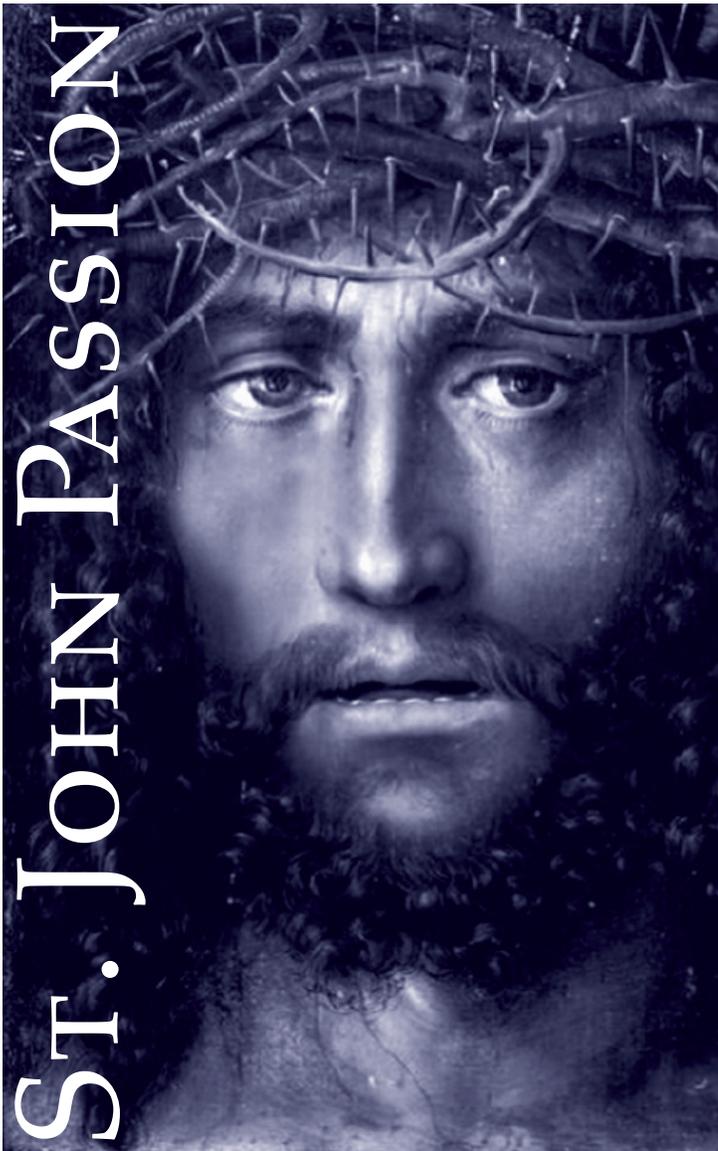
John 9:1-41

April 2-Lent V

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

The Importance of Ultimate Trust: Dead or Alive

John 11:1-45



MASTERWORKS SERVICE

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017
10:30AM IN THE SANCTUARY

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR AND MUSICIANS
FROM THE BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC PRESENT
BOB CHILCOTT'S "ST. JOHN PASSION"

The influence of Bach's Passion settings is so great that any composer taking up the form can only feel what has been called the anxiety of influence. But this version of the *St. John Passion* by British composer Bob Chilcott is so well thought out, and so original in dealing with the inherited material, that it will compel the admiration even of those not especially enamored of contemporary British church music and its sometimes too-sunny tone. Chilcott does not attempt to shed the Bachian models entirely, but he devises convincing contemporary equivalents for them. His setting consists of diverse elements. First are narrative passages from the King James translation of the Bible, with an evangelist describing the action and soloists and the choir taking up the words of Jesus, Pontius Pilate, and the crowd demanding Jesus' head. Each of these is distinguished by its own instrumental accompaniment, and Chilcott's melodic characterizations are at once simple, flexible, and dramatically vivid. These gather in intensity as the story approaches its climax, and Chilcott is masterly here at not overplaying his hand; listeners are swept along. Second are settings of English poetry that reflect on aspects of the tale. These are older texts, dating from the middle centuries of the second millennium, and beautifully rounded out by Isaac Watts, 'When I survey the Wondrous Cross' at the very end. Finally, in a simpler musical and textual vein, are mostly later texts that Chilcott designates hymns. These fill the role of Bach's chorales and could be sung by a congregation in the church service.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, March 12, Lent II

8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
8:00 AM Senior Choristers
8:15 AM Worship/Communion
9:00 AM Spiritual Life
9:00 AM Deacon Mtg.
9:00 AM Case Library/Adult Bible
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
9:15 AM Confirmation Class
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
10:30 AM Worship
10:40 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
11:45 AM Downton Abbey Tea
4:00 PM Choir School Evensong
5:00 PM Evensong Reception

Tuesday, March 14

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
9:00 AM Management Mtg.
4:30 PM Choir School Rehearsal

4:30 PM ENERGY Program
5:30 PM Worship, Music & Arts
6:00 PM 2nd Lenten Dinner/Program
6:00 PM Zen Dharma

Wednesday, March 15

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

Thursday, March 16

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
8:45 AM Centering Prayer
12:15 PM WOW Bible Study
4:30 PM Choir School Rehearsal
4:30 PM ENERGY Program

6:00 PM Handbells
7:30 PM Masterworks Rehearsal

Friday, March 17

5:30 PM Taize Service

Saturday, March 18

6:30 PM "Celebrating our Love" Fundraiser

Sunday, March 19

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/Adult Bible Class
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
9:15 AM Confirmation Class
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
10:30 AM Worship/Masterworks
10:30 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
12:30 PM St. Patrick's Parade Day

News & Notes

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, 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 8:00AM 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 - 4th grade classes: Meet each Sunday with their teachers in the 1st Parish Hall Classroom.
- 5th -7th grade class meets each Sunday with their teacher Carol Timmerman-Yorty in the 2nd Parish Hall classroom
- 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 Tuesday, 4:30PM to 5:30PM, Wednesday, 4:30PM - 6:30PM, and Thursday, 4:30PM - 5:30PM. At 6PM, on Wednesdays, the choristers sing Choral Evensong in the Holmes Chapel, open to everyone. *The Junior Choristers*, ages 7-11, rehearse simultaneously, joining the Senior Choristers for the service of Choral Evensong at 6 PM. *The Apprentice Choristers*, ages 4-6, rehearse each Sunday 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 dates are **March 26 and May 21**, 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

A Case Library and Adult Bible Study Joint Lenten Series Presentation
9:00am to 10:15am in the Case Library

How to Read the Bible and Still be a Christian by John Dominic Crossan
March 12, 19, & 26

Is God Violent? An exploration from Genesis to Revelation

The acclaimed Bible scholar and author of *The Historical Jesus* and 12 other books grapples with scripture's conflicting visions of God and Jesus. At times the Bible depicts a loving God, and at other times a vengeful God. Crossan explains how Christians can discern and decipher which passages to trust and follow. Please join us for what promises to be a very stimulating program!

March 12: Part II & Part IIIa: Chapters 3-6 – Civilization & Covenant
Discussion Leader – John Montague

Spiritual Life

Sunday, 9AM to 10:15AM in the Heritage Room

March 12: *Foster and Enhance Your Relationships Using Myers-Briggs*
Presenter: Karen Rumsey, licensed mental health counselor at Catholic Charities. The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) is a tool that measures a person's individual preferences regarding Extraversion/Introversion, Intuition/Sensing, Feeling/Thinking, and Perceiving/Judging. Karen will guide us in understanding how our personal preferences affect how we relate to the world, including relationships, careers, and other pursuits.

PASSAGES: A PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

Join us on April 4th for some great Buffalo stories told by guest speaker Marla Bujnicki. Marla is a Buffalo preservationist and history enthusiast, certified master docent by the Preservation of Buffalo Niagara. Lunch at 12:30PM, presentation at 1:15PM. Please sign up in the Gallery Room if you will be having lunch, or RSVP to 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.

WOW KNITTING GROUP

For the month of March only, the group will meet on Wednesday, March 15 and Wednesday, March 29, 7PM to 9PM. The group will resume meeting on Tuesdays in April, 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 information and dates.

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.

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: March 17, April 21, and May 19 at 5:30 PM. Start your weekend with this service of calming prayer and meditation.

Choral Evensong: Sunday, 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.

Masterworks Service: Sunday, March 19 at 10:30 AM

The Westminster Choir and musicians from the Buffalo Philharmonic perform Bob Chilcott's *St. John Passion*, a dramatic retelling of the Passion story that combines thirteenth century English poetry with texts from the King James Bible.

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. 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! Meet & Mingle 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 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 come early to church to make the punch, put the food on serving plates before the 10:30 service; monitor the need to refill punch or food platters; 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!

WOW-WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

Downton Abbey Tea in the Case Library today following the 10:30AM service. Draped in lace tablecloths, adorned with flowers and antique teacups, our library will be transformed to a Highclere Castle tearoom. An offering of soup, savory and sweet tea sandwiches, scones with Devonshire cream, dainty pastries and, of course, tea, will be served. Seating is limited! Sign up in the Gallery Room by March 5th. \$5 at the door.

LENT FOOD DRIVE -THROUGH APRIL 2

To remind ourselves and teach our children how the need for food is a daily need, we are asking people to put aside a daily donation of one or two non-perishable food items during the weeks of Lent. Then each Sunday during Lent, food items to fill the empty barrels for the Food Bank. At the end of Lent or as the barrels are filled, the Food Bank will pick up our donated food items.

PRESBYTERY EVENT

Join folks from our Presbytery on Saturday, March 18th to hear Rev. Carl Horton, Director of the Peacemaking Program of PCUSA, at North Presbyterian Church in Williamsville at 9:30AM. Two workshops: *Challenges for the Church in a Time of Change* and *Looking for Peace in All the Right Places*. Lunch will be served. For more information please call Jan Tyson at 668-1995.

- Tuesdays in Lent - Deep Stories and Courageous Conversations

We will hold our annual dinner/discussions

Tuesday evenings in the Holmes Room.

• Dinner is at 6pm (\$5 suggested donation)

• Presentation is at 6:30pm • Discussion is at

7:00pm • Concludes at 7:30pm

• RSVP is Necessary: Sign up at the

Information Table in the Gallery Room

or email Jamie at jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org

This year our traditional Wednesdays in Lent has moved to Tuesdays in Lent. Given the great chasms revealed by the recent election that divide our nation among common, everyday folks, many are calling for efforts to bridge the divides. Suggestions range from "Courageous Conversations" about politics to listening to and learning from one another's "Deep Stories."

Three recent best sellers – *The End of White Christian America*, *Strangers in Their Own Land: A Journey Into the Heart of Our Political Divide*, and *Hillbilly Elegy* – each tells the deep story of various groups of people and specific individuals representing those groups. Deep stories are, as one of the authors says, "how we feel about and experience life"; deep stories give us our orientation to the world; they are the values, assumptions, and social tenets we learn early in life and that shape our attitudes and commitments as adults.

In the spirit of deepening the bond of our own community here at Westminster, and learning to listen deeply to one another, our Lenten Dinner Series will give us an opportunity to hear the deep stories of some of our staff and church leaders. Our goal is to equip us to help bring about healing in our community as we listen deeply to others and learn how to think and speak deeply about ourselves.

From our neighbors in city neighborhoods and suburbs, to perhaps even our own family members we thought we knew but realized in the current political climate that we don't, this series will help us listen with compassion and speak with courage about faith, values, and even politics.

Tuesday, March 14

Deep Stories and Courageous Conversations

The Reverend Beth Hennessy,

Minister for Pastoral Care, WPC

Tuesday, March 21

Deep Stories and Courageous Conversations

Roger Seifert, Entrepreneur, Sales Executive

Tuesday, March 28

Deep Stories and Courageous Conversations

Elder Mimi Steadman, Associate Vice

President, Institutional Effectiveness, Daemen College

Tuesday, April 4

Elder Tim Johnston, CEO and Founder of Sandhill

Investment Management and Dr. Yorty

A discussion on how Westminster can contribute to healing and hope in the current environment

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

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Yorty

Call to Worship

The people stand and remain standing for the hymn.

Hymn, No. 488

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

Prayer Of Confession

**Gracious God,
we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace.
You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not.
We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead.
We justify our actions and words,
though we know they are not what you require.
We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers,
preferring old habits to risky change.
Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ,
trusting that you have included us by grace
in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray. 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

GLORIA PATRI

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.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 121; Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Text can be found on page 4 of this bulletin.

Anthem

O Sacrum Convivium

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

*O sacrum convivium!
in quo Christus sumitur:
recolitur memoria passionis eius:
mens impletur gratia:
et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.*

O sacred banquet!
in which Christ is received,
the memory of his Passion is renewed,
the mind is filled with grace,
and a pledge of future glory to us is given.

Meditation

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 and dairy-free bread in Communion. Please take the aisle nearest you to the communion station at the front of that aisle, and return to your seat by the same aisle.

Sending Hymn, No. 602

Song of Zechariah
The people stand to sing.

MERLE'S TUNE

Benediction

Closing Voluntary Chorale

Joseph Jongen

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
Hillary Hunt and Veronica Shanchuk, Chorister trainers

GIVING 2017



Pledges received as of 03/10/17

Number of Pledges Received	Total Pledges Received	Dollars to Goal
281	\$589,038	\$10,962

We ask that you prayerfully consider the blessings you have received and with a grateful heart return your pledge card with support for 2017. Your financial pledge will enable Westminster to continue our ministry as we strive to answer the Prayer of St. Francis to “Love, Comfort, Understand and Give” within our church home and our community. Pledge cards are available in the Holmes Room and you may return your pledge card by mail, make a pledge or a pledge payment on our secure site at www.wpcbuffalo.org/giving, or email Sawrie Becker, sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org. 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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