



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

March 26, 2017
Fourth Sunday in Lent
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary



As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’
- John 9:5

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light.
 We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue.
 We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others.
 We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable,
 but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray.
 Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly.
 Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved.
 Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives.
 Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin,
 and shine upon us with your grace.
 We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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).

Service of Confirmation

Presentation of Stoles and Crosses

Statement of Faith - Confirmation Class 2017

The last task for each confirmation class is to write a corporate faith statement. This reflects what they believe at this point in their faith journey. Please join with them and affirm together this statement of faith.

We believe in God, our Father and creator who always loves and forgives us. God protects and watches over us all. God leads us through our journey of life. We trust in Jesus, the Son of God, our Savior who died for our sins. His life, death and resurrection taught us to believe in God's will. Jesus led by example and taught us to love others, our neighbors and even our enemies. The Holy Spirit guides us, is a presence all around. We believe the Spirit is within us and helps us make the right choices. The Spirit empowers our church and gives it life. During baptism we become a part of the church and its community. Baptism is God's way of nurturing and securing his faith in us. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a renewal and commitment we make to God. We believe the church is our family in which we are connected to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Confirmation of Baptismal Vows

Elizabeth Bojdak, Ava Horn, Brooke Horn, Madeline Payne, Ali Stevens, and Julia Warszawski.

As members of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, you do not come to us as strangers, but as sisters and brothers in the Lord. Please renew your vows of baptism by answering the call to discipleship.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Do you trust him?

I do.

Do you intend to be his disciple, to obey his word, and to show his love?

I do.

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, giving of yourself in every way, and will you seek the fellowship of the church wherever you go?

I will.

The Laying on of Hands and Prayer of Confirmation

All those ordained as Elders or Deacons are invited forward for the laying on of hands.

Hymn, No. 497

With Grateful Hearts Our Faith Professing
The people stand to sing.

ST. CLEMENT

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

Psalms 23

chant: Bobby McFerrin[†] (b. 1950)

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, She will lead.

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk, through a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said She won't forsake me, I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,
She anoints my head with oil,
And my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me,
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house forever, and forever and ever.

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter, and to the Holy of Holies,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen

John 9:24-38a

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.'²⁵He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.'²⁶They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?'²⁷He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?'²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.'²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.'³⁰The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.'³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.'³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.'³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.'³⁴They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.'³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?'³⁶He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.'³⁷Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.'³⁸He said, 'Lord, I believe.'

Sermon

The Importance of Personal Experience: A Word to the Confirmands

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

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

Prayer

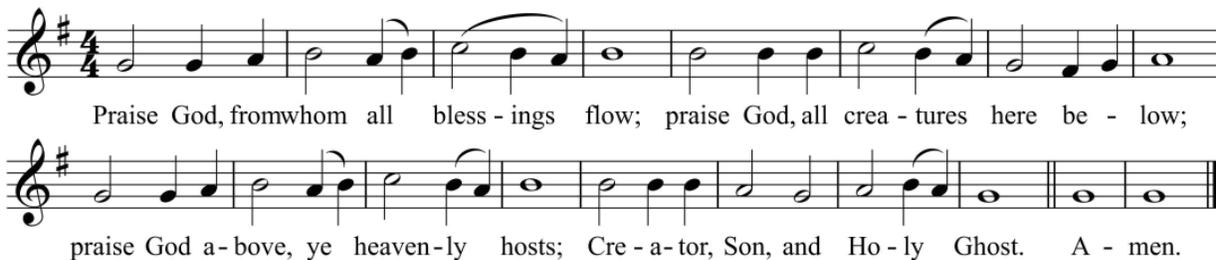
René Clausen (b. 1953)
Text: Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997)

Help me spread your fragrance where I go. Flood my soul with your spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that my life may be only a radiance of Yours.
Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I know will feel Your presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see no longer me, but only You. Amen.

Presentation of the Gifts

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

HAMBURG



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Prayer of Dedication

**In gratitude, O God,
we come to your table, into your presence, into your house.
For all that you have done for us, most especially,
for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise.
We long to live as children of light, doing what is pleasing to you
and bearing the fruit of the light through Jesus Christ, who awakens those who sleep,
and raises those who are dead to new life. In his name 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. 525

Here I am, Lord
The people stand to sing.

SCHUTTE

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Fugue in C Major, BWV 547

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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
F. William Gray, Liturgist
Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries
Walter S. Mayo, Director of the Westminster Handbell Choir
Brian Glikes, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar
The Westminster Choir

Deacons Serving Today

Cameron Airhart, Patty Charlier, Kate Dierfield, Doug Fabian, Carol Huber, Florence KilamboKalumbu,
Mike Reynolds, Jennifer Russell, Nancy Stevens

Notes on Today's Music

†**Robert Keith “Bobby” McFerrin, Jr.** is an American vocalist and conductor and is best known for his 1988 hit song “Don’t Worry, Be Happy”. He is a ten-time Grammy Award winner, who is known for his unique vocal techniques, such as singing fluidly but with quick and considerable jumps in pitch—for example, sustaining a melody while also rapidly alternating with arpeggios and harmonies—as well as scat singing, polyphonic overtone singing, vocal basslines, and improvisational vocal percussion. Widely known for performing and recording regularly as an unaccompanied solo vocal artist, he has frequently collaborated with other artists, from both the jazz and classical scenes.

McFerrin, an Episcopalian that was raised singing in his church choir, shares these thoughts on today’s Psalm: “The 23rd Psalm is dedicated to my mother. She was the driving force in my religious and spiritual education, and I have so many memories of her singing in church. But I wrote it because I’d been reading the Bible one morning, and I was thinking about God’s unconditional love, about how we crave it but have so much trouble believing we can trust it, and how we can’t fully understand it. And then I left my reading and spent time with my wife and our children. Watching her with them, the way she loved them, I realized one of the ways we’re shown a glimpse of how God loves us is through our mothers. They cherish our spirits, they demand that we become our best selves, and they take care of us.”

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.

April 2-Lent V: The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty
The Importance of Ultimate Trust: Dead or Alive; John 11:1-45

Palm Sunday - April 9 - Worship at 8:15 and 10:30 AM

Choral Evensong - April 9 - 4:00 PM, Prelude Recital, 3:30 PM
The Westminster Choir and guest conductor, Gerald Gray, present Britten’s *Rejoice in the Lamb*

Maundy Thursday - April 13, 6:00 PM in the Holmes Chapel

Improvisations on Stations of the Cross - April 14, Noon in the Sanctuary
Organist Garrett Martin improvises on the Stations of the Cross, alternating with poems and readings about this most solemn day.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service - April 14, 7:57 PM (sundown) in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 16 - Worship at 8:15 and 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

Arts & Music Weekend



Friday, May 12, 7:30 PM at the Saturn Club, featuring singer - songwriter, Christopher Keenan
Sunday, May 14, 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary, featuring Diane Bish, guest organist

Christopher Keenan, singer-songwriter is the featured performer at the Second Annual Gala to benefit the Westminster Friends of Music. If you attended last year's sold out event, you enjoyed a fantastic evening of food, fun, and music—all while supporting the Westminster Choirs, Handbell Choir, and the extensive music programming that occurs throughout the year. This year's event is sure to be even bigger and better—buy your tickets today, before they sell out! Please consider that your ticket goes a long way to support so many aspects of our music program, including: weekly sacred music offerings, guest artist performances, maintaining our historic Aeolian-Skinner organs and Steinway pianos, sending our choristers to choir camps, public outreach, and music education. As we begin to make plans for the Westminster Choir to tour England in 2018, your support will go far in securing our church's commitment to serving both the local and global communities through the arts.

Diane Bish, guest organist. Known to audiences through her TV program, *The Joy of Music*, Diane Bish is arguably the most well-known organist of her generation. She will present a program of familiar masterworks and original compositions with the Buffalo Brass Quintet, and the choirs of Westminster, Calvary Episcopal Church, and St. Paul's Cathedral.

Tickets are available at www.wpcbuffalo.org

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, March 26 – Lent VI

8:00 AM Senior Choristers
 8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
 8:15 AM Worship/Communion
 9:00 AM Spiritual Life
 9:00 AM Case Library/Adult Bible
 9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
 9:15 AM Confirmation Class Meets Session
 9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
 10:30 AM Worship/Confirmation
 10:30 AM Sunday School
 11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
 12:30 PM Inquirer's Mtg./Light Refreshments

Monday, March 27

3:00 PM Buffalo Niagara Choirs

Tuesday, March 28

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 9:00 AM Management Mtg.
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program

4:30 PM Choir School Rehearsal
 5:30 PM Personnel Comm. Mtg.
 6:00 PM Zen Dharma
 6:00 PM 4th Lenten Dinner/Program

Wednesday, March 29

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 ENERGY Program
 4:30 PM Choir School Rehearsal
 5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
 5:45 PM All Staff Retreat/Dinner
 6:00 PM Choir School Evensong
 7:00 PM Knitting Group
 8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, March 30

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 8:45 AM Centering Prayer
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program

4:30 PM Choir School Rehearsal
 6:00 PM Handbells
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, April 1

12:00 PM Leah Wietig/Main Stage Studios Recital

Sunday, April 2 – Lent V

7:00 AM Name Tag Sunday
 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 Case Library/Spiritual Life
 9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
 9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 AM 1st Sunday Youth Service/Sunday School
 10:30 AM Worship W/ Communion
 11:30 AM Meet & Mingle

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 jad-amczyk@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 **Today, 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

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 26: Part IVb: Chapters 11-14 – Community Conclusion
Discussion Leader – Jerry Kelly

Spiritual Life

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

March 26: *Spiritual Connections Through Art-Part 1*

Presenters: Dot Keller and Fred Cooley

Seeing Dot's shell series and Fred's water colors is a glorious aesthetic experience yet when you hear them talk about their creative process you probably will find their deep connections are clearly spiritual. They will show some of their pieces then work with us on our own artistic ways of connecting to our special subjects and places.

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 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.

April 7: Musical Delights Piano Quartet, Food Truck: Cheesy Chick

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.

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.

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

Western New York Chamber Orchestra: Friday, April 21 at 7:30 PM. WNYCO presents Mozart's "Great" Mass in C minor, and John Corigliano's *Creation*. The concert features the Masterworks Choir of SUNY Fredonia, the Westminster Choir, and guest soloists.

Westminster Handbell Choir: Sunday, May 7 at 4:00 PM. Join us for an afternoon of music presented by Westminster's renowned handbell choir and talented guest artists.

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!

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.

GOOD NEWS!

Air conditioning is coming to the Holmes Chapel and Holmes Room! Thanks to a special gift from Dr. Philip and Donna Niswander, the summer worship services in the Holmes Chapel will be temperature controlled creating a more comfortable worship experience for all of us. We are grateful for this wonderful gift from the Niswander family and we look forward to worshipping together when we officially begin our one-worship summer hours on Sunday, June 25, 2017.

COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT

Sponsored by Buffalo Sunrise Rotary Club. Saturday June 17, 10am - 1pm at Westminster This service ensures safe and secure disposal of unneeded, outdated business and personal papers. The cost is \$10.00 per box (approx size 10"x12"x15") Rotarians will be on hand to assist with unloading boxes from your vehicle. For additional information about Rotary or this event call 716-479-8711 visit the Buffalo Sunrise Rotary Facebook page.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 9th at 9:15 AM. Join us for good food, lively conversation and making crosses out of palm branches and other intergenerational activities. The breakfast will be catered with a free will offering. Sign up on the information table in the Gallery Room or call the church office 884-9437.

EASTER RECEPTION

Join us for a time of fellowship at a reception in the Case Library. immediately following the 10:30 AM service on April 16. Donations of finger foods are needed such as vegetables and hummus /dip, fruit, cheese and crackers or baked goods. A sign- up sheet is available in the Gallery Room. Please sign up on the Information Table in the Gallery Room.

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 28:

Deep Stories and Courageous Conversations
Elder Mimi Steadman, Associate Vice
President, Institutional Effectiveness, Daemen College

Tuesday, April 4:

Deep Stories and Courageous Conversations
The Reverend Beth Hennessy,
Minister for Pastoral Care, WPC

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

Suite Liturgique (1995)
I. Entrée

Denis Bédard (b. 1950)

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Yorty

Call to Worship

The people stand and remain standing for the hymn.

Hymn, No. 280

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

Prayer Of Confession

**Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light.
We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue.
We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others.
We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable,
but step back, protecting ourselves.
Forgive us, we pray.
Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly.
Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved.
Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives.
Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin,
and shine upon us with your grace.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

Time for silent prayer

Kyrie

The people sing.

John Weaver (1984)

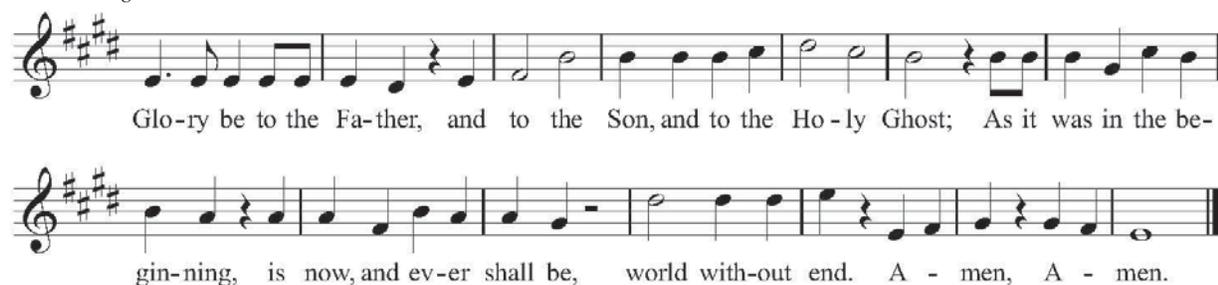


Words of Assurance

Response

GLORIA PATRI

Stand to sing.



Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 23; John 9:24-38a
Text can be found on page 4 and 5 of this bulletin.

Anthem

Steal Away Spiritual, arr. Malcolm Archer
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.

Meditation

The Importance of Personal Experience: A Word to the Confirmands Dr. Yorty

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. 525

Here I am, Lord SCHUTTE
The people stand to sing.

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Fugue in C Major, BWV 547 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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 03/24/17

Number of Pledges Received	Total Pledges Received	DOLLARS OVER OUR GOAL
292	\$604,908	\$4,908

Thanks to the generosity of members and friends of Westminster, the Ministry of Generosity Committee is pleased to announce that we have exceeded our 2017 Generosity goal! We are grateful for your financial pledges to this church that enable us 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. If you have not yet made a pledge and would like to, you may do so 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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