



WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • BUFFALO

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

8:15 AM IN THE HOLMES CHAPEL

10:30 AM IN THE SANCTUARY

THE REVEREND DR. THOMAS H. YORTY
PASTOR



Worship in the Sanctuary • 10:30 AM

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 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. Deacons are available for assistance. Please turn off all cell phones.

Opening Voluntary

Air

Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

It is the tradition of this congregation to remain silent during the Opening Voluntary as we collectively prepare for worship.

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

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

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 may be found on page 10.

Hymn in Procession

God, How Can We Forgive

LEONI

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
We confess that we bow down before other gods;
We have turned our hearts away from you.
Our worship of work and devotion to consumerism
Disorders our love of you and each other.
Forgive us, God,
And mend what is broken,
That we may be one with you.
Amen.

Time for silent prayer.



Scripture Lesson

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Gospel Acclamation

The people stand.



Gospel Lesson

The people stand.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 5:21-37

²¹You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.” ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. ²⁷You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. ³¹It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. ³³Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.” ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Acclamation



Sermon

Magnificat Faith: More Than Checking Boxes



Hymn, No. 347

The people stand to sing.
Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

DETROIT

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem

Judge Eternal

Gerre Hancock

Judge eternal, throned in splendor, Lord of lords and King of kings,
With thy living fire of judgment purge this land of bitter things;
Solace all its wide dominion with the healing of thy wings.
Still, still the weary folk are pining for the hour that brings release,
And the city's crowded clangor cries aloud for sin to cease;
And the homesteads and the woodlands plead in silence for their peace.
Crown, O God, thine own endeavor; cleave our darkness with thy sword;
Feed all those who do not know thee with the richness of thy word;
Cleanse the body of this nation through the glory of the Lord.

Presentation of the Gifts

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Je - sus Christ whose pow'r up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Prayer of Dedication

**Loving God, we give thanks for all you have given to us
And praise you for your astounding goodness.
Receive the dedication of our hearts, minds,
And bodies for the ministry of your church.
Bless our offering for the work of your kingdom,
And give us wisdom for the right use of all you have provided,
Through Christ our Lord. 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

The people stand to sing. Hymn may be found on page 11.
What Gift Can We Bring?

ANNIVERSARY SONG



Benediction and Choral Response

God Be In My Head

John Rutter (b. 1945)

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in mine heart and in my thinking.
God be at my end and in my departing.

Closing Voluntary

Heraldings

Robert Hebble (b. 1934)

*Immediately following worship, please join us for Meet & Mingle in the Holmes Room.
Thank you to our hosts today, Laurel and Doug Braun.*

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor
The Reverend Katelyn Nutter Dowling, Associate Pastor for Christian Education
F. William Gray, Liturgist
Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries
The Westminster Choir

Deacons Serving Today

Peter Ahrens, Steve Jaworski, Stephen Johnson, John Mahoney, Aaron Makin,
Candace Marr, Johnpatrick Marr, Roberta Nickelsen, Roy Stewart

Chancel Flowers

The flowers at the Lord's Table are given by Sue Adams in loving memory of her parents,
John and Dolly Adams on their 70th wedding anniversary, February 18.

Notes on Today's Music

‡**James Nares** was an English composer of mostly sacred vocal works, though he also composed for the harpsichord and organ. He began his career as Deputy Organist of St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, and was later appointed Organist of York Minster in 1735. In 1756, he became organist and composer to George III at the Chapel Royal. It is believed that Nares was the first person systematically to publish a series of keyboard lessons for students of the piano.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP AND PREACHING SCHEDULE

8:15 AM in the Holmes Chapel with Communion
10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

February 23 • The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty
Psalm 99; Matthew 17:1-9 • *Magnificat Faith: Ordinary Awe*

February 26 • Ash Wednesday • The Rev. Katelyn Nutter Dowling
The traditional service of imposition of ashes, and celebration of the Lord's Supper
will be held at 12 Noon and 6 PM in the Holmes Chapel.
At 6PM, the Westminster Schola will lead this service marking the beginning
of the solemn season of Lent.

Live Stream Worship Services Each Sunday
Visit us on Facebook: Westminster Presbyterian Church • Buffalo

WESTMINSTER PRESENTS • MUSIC AND THE ARTS

The Art of the Spiritual • February 19 • Noon • Lorenzo Parnell, tenor

Lorenzo Parnell, has appeared in opera and musical theater productions throughout Buffalo and Western New York. He will share his favorite spirituals, including modern interpretations and arrangements.

Salvatore Andolina and Friends • February 23 • 7:30 PM

Salvatore Andolina, clarinet • Claudia Hoca, piano • Tiffany DuMouchelle, soprano

In the greater world of music, crossover artists will always be a rare item. But the challenge to swing freely between classical repertoire and the realm of jazz has been met straight away by the saxophone and clarinet virtuosity of Sal Andolina. As a touring artist, Sal has appeared at major venues across the United States, including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, and in Los Angeles on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson.

His international performances include a recent recital tour of Japan. In addition to appearing as a soloist with JoAnn Falletta and the BPO, Sal has appeared with the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall with Marvin Hamlisch, performed the Artie Shaw Concerto with Peter Nero of the Philadelphia Pops, and has been a soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic, the Grand Rapids Symphony, Niagara Symphony, Fresno Philharmonic, and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, among others.

Celtic Music and Art • March 18 • Noon

Beth Hennessy, Speaker • Bill Hennessy, Irish Penny Whistle

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, the Hennessys will share music, prayers, and stories from their time traveling and studying in Ireland.

Mozart's Solemn Vespers • March 27 • 7:30 PM • The Western New York Chamber Orchestra, *Artist-in-residence* Sonja Inglefield, Harp; Barry Crawford, Flute; The Choirs of Westminster Presbyterian Church; Glen Cortese, Conductor

For their annual masterworks presentation, the Westminster Choirs are joined by artist-in-residence, the Western New York Chamber Orchestra.



GIVING 2020 PRESERVE THE PINNACLE

Pledges* received as of 02/13/2020	Number of Pledges Received	Total Pledges Received	Dollars to Goal
GIVING 2020	182	\$493,172	\$106,828
PRESERVE THE PINNACLE	151	\$3,126,703	\$973,297

The "Now & Ever - Giving 2020 • Preserve the Pinnacle Capital Campaign" is well underway! Thank you to all who have pledged. If you have yet to pledge, we ask that you please return your signed Giving 2020 pledge card and your Preserve the Pinnacle pledge card at your earliest convenience. There is a basket on the table in the Holmes Room where you can place your completed pledge cards or pick up a pledge packet. For your convenience, you may make a pledge, and a pledge payment to Giving 2020, as well as a gift to Preserve the Pinnacle on our secure site at www.wpcbuffalo.org/giving. Our goal for Giving 2020 is \$600,000 and for Preserve the Pinnacle is \$4.1 million.

As you prayerfully think about your pledge, please consider increasing your pledge for Giving 2020 by either increasing your weekly offering by a few dollars, or making an overall 5% increase to ensure that we successfully accomplish our goal. Please know that whatever you contribute to the "Now & Ever - Giving 2020 • Preserve the Pinnacle Capital Campaign" will be greatly appreciated.

*Individual pledges and gifts from foundations.

NEWS AND NOTES

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

To learn more about our programming or mission, please fill out a Welcome Card (found in the pew). If you need assistance at any time, please ask a Deacon or staff member.

- As a More Light church, we invite all persons of the LGBTQIA+ community to membership and full participation in all ministries.

- Bibles and children's worship guides are available at the Sanctuary entrances. For the hearing impaired, receivers are available in the Conference Room.

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

CHURCH LIFE

INQUIRER CLASS

March 22 following 10:30 AM Worship

Friends and visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and our ministries are invited to attend a meeting in the Case Library immediately following worship. We will share Westminster's history, discuss current outreach and mission programs in the city and region, and answer any questions. At the conclusion of the meeting, those who so desire will be received into the membership of the church. For more information, please contact Sawrie Becker, 884-9437, ext. 315, or sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

WESTMINSTER'S ALCOHOL/OTHER DRUG EDUCATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE.

This service provides support to assist members and friends with issues and questions related to abuse of alcohol or other drugs. If you or someone you love needs help, call for free and confidential advice. Jen Read (228.7526) and Elizabeth Stewart (585.217.7878), Co-Chairs; Dave Carstensen (884.5403), Jane Morris (571.481.1839), Ellen Smith (431.9284), Phil Stevens (247.3824).

ENERGY

The name ENERGY reflects what we value: Education, Nurture, Encouragement, Readiness, and Growth for Youth. The ENERGY school-year program gathers at Westminster and offers a robust place for children, whose families are refugees and recently immigrated to this country, to develop English-language skills, self-confidence, and cultural awareness. Students receive a one-on-one experience with trained volunteer tutors and staff. If you are interested in reading with children, helping with homework, cooking meals, or leading lessons or activities, contact volunteer@wedibuffalo.org

WEST SIDE BAZAAR

Check out The West Side Bazaar, 25 Grant Street, for lunch and shopping. Sunday and Monday: Closed. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 11 AM-7 PM. Friday: 11 AM-8 PM, Saturday: 10 AM-8 PM.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY OFFERING

Sundays, 9 AM-10:15 AM in the Parish Hall
Starting today, February 16

The Reverend Katelyn Nutter Dowling will lead.

This year's Bible Study will focus on the parables of Jesus. In addition to learning what he likely meant by them, we will explore how our individual lens affects what meaning we ascribe to the parable itself.

Our study will use supplemental readings that take the texts of the parables and turn them upside down, inside out, and more while looking at how class, race, sexual orientation, and more affect the way we read Jesus' parables.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmands will meet for their first official Spring lesson on February 23 after worship. We will eat together with Dialogue Diner and then will break into our small groups to launch into our confirmation curriculum. As a reminder, the other dates for brunch are: March 1, 8, and 15. Watch for emails about location and pick-up times. Confirmation Sunday is March 22 and we can't wait to celebrate!

NEW TIME FOR DIALOGUE DINER!

We are celebrating a new time for our traditional meal of fellowship on Sundays called "Dialogue Diner." We will now meet AFTER worship two Sundays per month. On February 23, join us for food and fellowship in Parish Hall, Noon until 1 PM. Students grade 6-12 are welcome.

CASE LIBRARY CONVERSATION SERIES

Sundays, 9 AM-10:15 AM in the Case Library

February 16

Buffalo East Side 21 Strategy: Blueprinting Growth and Economic Development

Presenter: James W. Pitts, Urban Planner

The Eastside 21 Strategy recognizes that economic prosperity is as much an issue as social, political and cultural challenges. The economic development of the city's Eastside into a healthy, sustainable, and wealth building community is essential to a growing local and regional economy. Pitts is an urban planner with an accomplished record using sustainable design to revitalize and rebuild low income communities in both the public and private sectors.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Sundays, 9 AM-10:15 AM in the Heritage Room

February 16

Soul Making Explorations

Presenter: The Reverend Dr. Tom Yorty

This topic is inspired by Tom Yorty's "Soul Making: a Memoir and Reflection" in *Traffic Magazine*. Tom will reflect on his Lilly Sabbatical and some of the unexpected and soul-making experiences he encountered as he followed "bread crumbs" on a road that led to deepening self-discovery—a road where he wrote the poem *This Time*, where he encountered his alcoholic father and "the thing I wish most had not happened." Those "bread crumbs" led Tom to a place "where we learn from the things we wish most had not happened but discover one day we are grateful for."

February 23

Soul Making Explorations

As a group, we will reflect on Tom Yorty's article in *Traffic Magazine*, "Soul Making: a Memoir and Reflection." We will explore where we have followed "bread crumbs" in our lives and what we experienced as a result. We will also explore how to notice and respond to them, even when they take us off our scheduled paths.

WOW LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY

Monday, March 16

1 PM-2:30 PM in the Case Library

The Women of Westminster invite you to a Brown Bag Lunchtime Bible study on the 3rd Monday of each month. This year we will explore the Horizons Bible study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*. Each lesson begins with an exploration of one of the Ten Words in its biblical context. From there, we consider a moment from Jesus' life that shows us how he lived out that Word. We then consider the Word for our own lives and contexts. There will be a nominal fee for the book.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MEET AND MINGLE

Please join us on Sundays following 10:30 AM Worship. Enjoy snacks and fellowship in the Holmes Room with friends old and new! Sponsors, shoppers, and hosts are needed for Meet & Mingle in February. Meet & Mingle is a great way to celebrate a special person or occasion. For more information please sign up in the Gallery Room or contact Sawrie Becker, sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org

KNITTING GROUP

Our next meeting date is Tuesday, February 25, 2-4 PM. The group meets on select days throughout the year and works on their individual projects, as well as prayer shawls, scarves, and other handmade items for members of the church. Contact Fran Holmes for information or dates, mfranholmes@verizon.net

PASSAGES: A PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

Tuesday, March 3

Lunch, 12:30 PM • Presentation, 1:15 PM

Topic: *Teaching in Tanganyika*

Presenter: Cornelia Dopkins

Before the Peace Corps was up and running a group of Harvard students, interested in the African independence movements, volunteered to teach in Tanganyika. It was the summer of 1962. Tanganyika had just become independent of the UK in 1961 and had yet to annex the island of Zanzibar to become today's Tanzania. *Sign up in the Gallery Room if you will be attending lunch.*

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

THEATRE OF YOUTH (TOY) stimulates the imagination, nurtures the creative spirit, and enhances the education of young people by engaging them in relevant, child-centered, and professionally-produced live theatre programs.

Three Bears Three Ways

Acting out a Story

Saturdays March 14, 21, and 28

10 AM-1 PM in Parish Hall • Grades 1-3

Learn how to act out a very well-known story in a theatrical way. Participants learn how to animate their voices and bodies to tell the tale of The Three Bears. Teamwork and sequential memory skills will be challenged and strengthened! Visit theatreofyouth.org for additional information.

PRESERVE THE PINNACLE

Westminster Presbyterian Church receives Sacred Sites grant from the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

Westminster has received a \$30,000 grant from the Landmarks Conservancy Sacred Sites Program. The matching grant is part of the Church's \$4.1 million *Preserve the Pinnacle* Capital Campaign and will help fund repair and restoration of the historic building's steeple and roof. The Sacred Sites Fund has provided over \$11.1 million of grant funding to over 800 houses of worship throughout New York State. In addition, the Sacred Sites Program has provided outreach services and technical advice to over 1,400 individual religious institutions. As Westminster prepares to raise the additional \$30,000 of matching funds needed to receive the grant award, we look forward to the new momentum that this grant will create in helping the church to reach its Capital Campaign goal.

NETWORK OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES • ANNUAL MEETING

Renew Interfaith Friendships!

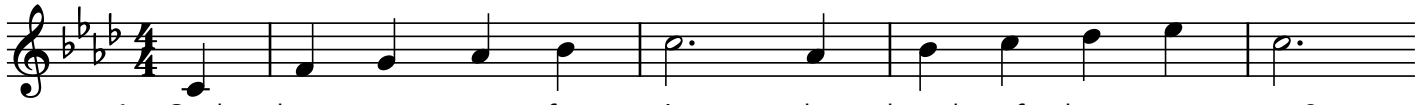
Thursday, February 20 • 6 PM • Congregation Shir Shalom
4660 Sheridan Drive • \$25.00 per reservation (regular or vegetarian Meals) RSVP to nrc@religiousnet.net or call 882-4793, ext 201.

God, How Can We Forgive

LEONI

Ruth Duck, 1994

Jewish melody, 17th c.



1. God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?
2. When we have missed the mark, and tears of an - guish flow,
3. Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,



How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?



When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.



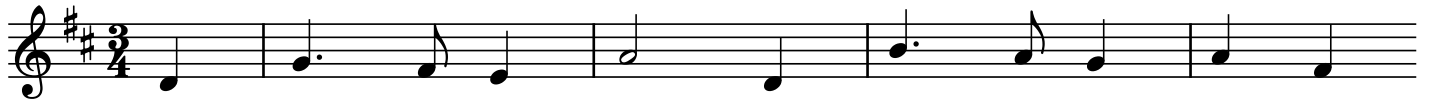
your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.
As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

What Gift Can We Bring?

ANNIVERSARY SONG

Jane Marshall 1980

Jane Marshall, 1980



1. What gift can we bring, what pres - ent, what to - ken?
2. Give thanks for the past, for those who had vi - sion,
3. Give thanks for to - mor - row, full of sur - pris - es,
4. This gift we now bring, this pres - ent, this to - ken,



What words can con - vey it, the joy of this day?
who plant - ed and wa - tered so dreams could come true.
for know - ing what - ev - er to - mor - row may bring,
these words can con - vey it, the joy of this day!



When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re - joic - ing,
Give thanks for the now, for stud - y, for wor - ship,
The Word is our prom - ise al - ways, for - ev - er;
When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re - joic - ing,



what song can we of - fer in hon - or and praise?
for mis - sion that bids us turn prayer in - to deed.
we rest in God's keep - ing and live in God's love.
this song we now of - fer in hon - or and praise!



2020 Vision: Climate Leap Forward

A Forum to Meet the Climate Crisis

Saturday, February 29 • 9 AM - 3 PM
Westminster Presbyterian Church • Buffalo
Cost: \$10 • Students: \$5 • Lunch provided

The Bible calls communities and nations to preserve the earth. A leading voice for climate responsibility, The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, will share models for activism in the church across the nation and explore with us the climate challenges to Western New York. We will discern how God calls us to collective action and send participants back to their congregations to encourage commitment and action to climate justice.

Space is limited; please register online at wpcbuffalo.org/climate

Agenda:

Keynote and Questions with Rev. Dr. Jim Antal
Breakout Group Discussions
Group Reports to Plenary
Rev. Dr. Antal's Response and Charge
Concluding Worship

Clergy Session and Breakout Groups and Facilitators Include:

Youth Strike - Rev. Micah Nutter Dowling
Creation Justice for Congregations - Roger Cook & Rev. Katelyn Nutter Dowling
Eco-Justice on West and East Sides of Buffalo - Joshua Wallace
Our Sacred Waters - Lynda Schneekloth
Renewable Energy (Wind/Solar) - Bob Ciesielski
WNY as a Region for Climate Refugees - Brendan Mehaffy
Climate Disaster Relief Responsibility - Rev. Amos Acree
Is Climate Change Real: What Scientists Tell Us - Dave Kowalski, PhD

*The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, author of the acclaimed book, *Climate Church, Climate World*, is immediate past President of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church Christ and a long-time activist, speaker, author.*

This conference is made possible in part by a grant from the Lilly Endowment.



Passing of the Peace

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

Please share the peace of Christ with your neighbors.

Prayer for Illumination

Psalm

Psalm 119:1-8

¹Happy are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! ²Happy are they who observe his decrees and seek him with all their hearts! ³Who never do any wrong, but always walk in his ways. ⁴You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them. ⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes! ⁶Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments. ⁷I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments. ⁸I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

Scripture Lesson

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Gospel Lesson

The people stand.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 5:21-37

²¹You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.” ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. ²⁷You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. ³¹It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. ³³Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.” ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.



Meditation

Magnificat Faith: More Than Checking Boxes

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. All of the bread distributed is gluten free. Please take the center aisle to the communion station, receive the elements, and return to your seat by a side aisle. If you are unable to receive the elements by coming forward to the elders, please raise your hand for the roving elder to come to your pew to serve the bread and wine.

Sending Hymn

The people stand to sing. Hymn may be found on page 11.
What Gifts Can We Bring?

ANNIVERSARY SONG

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Heraldings

Robert Hebble (b. 1934)

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor
The Reverend Katelyn Nutter Dowling, Associate Pastor for Christian Education
Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, February 16

8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
8:15 AM Worship with Communion
9:00 AM Case Library Conversations
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
9:15 AM Bible Study
9:15 AM Spiritual Life
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship
10:40 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM LGBTQ Focus Group
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle

Monday, February 17

6:30 AM WPC Closed/President's Day
8:30 AM WECP Training Day
9:00 AM Theatre of Youth

Tuesday, February 18

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
9:00 AM Theatre of Youth

9:00 AM Management Meeting

5:00 PM Church Life Committee Meeting

5:30 PM Budget/Finance Meeting

6:00 PM Zen Dharma

Wednesday, February 19

7:15 AM AA Meeting
9:00 AM Theatre of Youth
9:00 AM Worship Planning
12:00 PM Art of the Spiritual
1:30 PM Staff Meeting
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
5:30 PM Transition Team Meeting
8:00 PM AA Meeting

Thursday, February 20

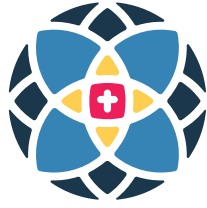
7:15 AM Wake Up Group
9:00 AM Theatre of Youth
6:00 PM Handbells
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 21

12:00 PM Noontime Al-Anon

Sunday, February 23

8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
8:15 AM Worship with Communion
9:00 AM Case Library Conversations
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
9:15 AM Bible Study
9:15 AM Spiritual Life
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship
10:40 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Confirmation Lunch
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
11:45 AM Racial Justice Committee
4:00 PM A Musical Feast



WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • BUFFALO

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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