



# WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • BUFFALO

SEPTEMBER 15, 2019  
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

---

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

### Opening Voluntary

Air

Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

### Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Hennessy

### 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

Preces

Gabriel Jackson (b. 1962)

O Lord, open thou our lips. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.  
O God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.  
Praise ye the Lord. The Lord's name be praised.

#### Call to Worship

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

We come to this place to search for God,  
**But God is already searching for us.**  
We come to this place to speak to God,  
**But God is already speaking to us.**  
Let us worship and listen for God,  
**Who calls us together and makes us whole.**

#### Hymn in Procession

Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit  
*Hymn can be found on page 10.*

LAUDA ANIMA

#### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, you know our sin:  
We have squandered the gifts you have given us.  
We have failed to forgive our debtors  
As you have forgiven us.  
We have been unfaithful and dishonest  
In small things and great things alike.  
We are shrewd in seeking wealth  
And foolish in following your way.  
Forgive our sins, O Lord, for your name's sake.  
Make us faithful stewards of the grace you have given  
And generous in forgiving others;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Time for silent prayer.*



# Kyrie

*The people sing.*

Thomas Pavlechko (b. 1961)

**Cantor**                    **Congregation**                    **Cantor**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

**Congregation**            **Cantor**                    **Congregation**

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

## **Assurance of Pardon**

## Response

*The people stand to sing.*

A musical score for three voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor) in common time, G major. The vocal parts are arranged in three staves. The Soprano part begins with a melodic line consisting of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Alto part enters with a sustained note followed by eighth and sixteenth notes. The Tenor part provides harmonic support with sustained notes and eighth-note patterns. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with the first two staves containing "Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost, as it was in the be -" and the third staff continuing with "- gin - ning is now and for - ev - er. A - men." Measure numbers 1, 2, and 3 are indicated above the staves.

## **Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Please share the peace of Christ with your neighbors.*

## **Time with Children**

Marcia Buhl

## **Prayer for Illumination**

## Psalm Lesson

Psalm 19

<sup>‡</sup>Bruce Neswick (b. 1956)

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork <sup>2</sup>One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another. <sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard, <sup>4</sup>Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world. <sup>5</sup>In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course. <sup>6</sup>It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat. <sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent. <sup>8</sup>The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes. <sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. <sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward. <sup>12</sup>Who can tell how often he offends? cleanse me from my secret faults. <sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense. <sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.



## Poem

Quarantine

<sup>†</sup>Eavan Boland (1944)

In the worst hour of the worst season  
of the worst year of a whole people  
a man set out from the workhouse with his wife.  
He was walking—they were both walking—north.

She was sick with famine fever and could not keep up.  
He lifted her and put her on his back.  
He walked like that west and west and north.  
Until at nightfall under freezing stars they arrived.

In the morning they were both found dead.  
Of cold. Of hunger. Of the toxins of a whole history.  
But her feet were held against his breastbone.  
The last heat of his flesh was his last gift to her.

Let no love poem ever come to this threshold.  
There is no place here for the inexact  
praise of the easy graces and sensuality of the body.  
There is only time for this merciless inventory:

Their death together in the winter of 1847.  
Also what they suffered. How they lived.  
And what there is between a man and woman.  
And in which darkness it can best be proved.

## Gospel Acclamation

*The people stand.*

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

## Gospel Lesson

*The people stand.*

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

Mark 4:19

<sup>4</sup>but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

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

## Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

## Sermon

Saving Mother Earth

## Hymn, No. 473

For the Beauty of the Earth  
*The people stand to sing.*

Dix



## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory Anthem

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

Steal Away

Dale Adelmann (b. 1961)

Steal away to Jesus; steal away home: I ain't got long to stay here.  
My Lord, he calls me by the thunder, the trumpet sounds within my soul: I ain't got long to stay here.  
Green trees a-bending, poor sinner stands a-trembling, the trumpet sounds within my soul:  
I ain't got long to stay here.

## Presentation of the Gifts

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

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low:  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Je - sus Christ whose pow'r up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

## Prayer of Dedication

Who is like you, O Lord our God?  
You look with mercy upon the earth;  
You lift up the poor from the dust  
And give them a place at your table.  
Teach us to sing your praise forever  
And to show your love to those in need;  
Through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

God Marked a Line and Told the Sea  
*The people stand to sing. Hymn can be found on page 11.*

OLD HUNDREDTH



---

## Benediction and Choral Response

Mt. St. Alban Service: Nunc Dimittis

David Hogan (1949-1996)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word;  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
To be a light to lighten the gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

## Closing Voluntary

Finale from Symphonie IV

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

---

*Immediately following the service, please join us for Meet & Mingle in the Holmes Room.  
Thank you to our hosts today, the Membership Committee of WPC.*

## Worship Leaders

Marcia Buhl, Preacher  
The Reverend Beth Hennessy, Liturgist  
Barbara Nelson and Christina Bodjak, Readers  
Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries  
The Westminster Choir

## Deacons Serving Today

Drew Dees, Kate Dierenfield, Teddie Granville, Stephen Johnson, Janet Kifner-Arnatt, Candace Marr,  
Joan Rice, Roy Stewart, Ron Sutz

## Chancel Flowers

The flowers at the Lord's Table are from the Westminster gardens.

## Notes on Today's Poet

*While Tom and Carol travel along the road of the Romantic poets on a Lilly National Clergy Renewal Grant, we will read, each Sunday before the Scripture reading for the day, lines from a romantic poet. Tom and Carol are in Alton Bay, NH, with his sister and brother in law.*

**Eavan Boland** is a major poet and one of the first female Irish poets of the 20th century to give a woman's voice to Irish culture and experience and thus inspire a new generation of women poets. Boland teaches at Stanford University and summers in her hometown of Dublin, Ireland. She was a Silverman Poet at SUNY at Buffalo five years ago. Her poem "Quarantine" recalls an anonymous couple lost in the Potato famine and their devotion and love that gave itself utterly away.

## Notes on Today's Music

A native of Kennewick, Washington, **Bruce Neswick** served as director of music at St. Albans School and the National Cathedral School and was assistant organist and founding director of the Girl's Choir at Washington National Cathedral. These appointments followed tenures as organist and choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral in Lexington, Kentucky, Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Geneva, Switzerland, St. Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo, New York, St. Philip's Episcopal Cathedral in Atlanta, Georgia, St. John the Divine in New York City, and currently serves at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon.

He holds degrees from Pacific Lutheran University, the Yale University School of Music, and Institute of Sacred Music. He holds the Fellowship degree from the American Guild of Organists and was the first-place winner in that organization's national improvisation competition in 1990. He is especially noted for his superb ability as an improvisateur, a craft that only a few organists in the United States have made their specialty.

Under his direction as the founding choirmaster, the Washington National Cathedral Girl Choristers toured England during the summer of 1999, and recorded two compact discs, including one featuring music from the liturgical cycle of the Cathedral. Neswick has also directed and assisted at several summer courses sponsored by the Royal School of Church Music for boy and girl choristers and is in frequent demand as a recitalist and workshop presenter.

## THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Sunday, September 15

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 Spiritual Life  
9:15 AM Year of the Bible  
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 AM Worship  
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle  
11:30 AM Racial Justice Meeting  
2:00 PM Buffalo Opera Rehearsal  
4:00 PM Evensong at St. John's-Grace

**Monday, September 16**  
10:00 AM Website Review  
1:00 PM WOW Bible Study  
1:00 PM WEDI Staff Meeting  
7:00 PM Year of the Bible

**Tuesday, September 17**  
7:15 AM Wake Up Group  
9:00 AM Management Meeting

10:00 AM Garden Group  
3:00 PM Buildings & Grounds  
5:30 PM Budget & Finance Meeting  
6:00 PM Zen Dharma  
7:00 PM WOW Book Selection

### Wednesday, September 18

7:15 AM AA Meeting  
8:00 AM Reserved/Wednesdays@WPC  
9:30 AM Worship Planning  
12:00 PM Wednesdays@WPC with Garrett Martin  
1:30 PM Staff Meeting  
5:00 PM Interfaith Event Rehearsal  
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace  
7:00 PM Knitting Group  
7:00 PM WECP New Parent Orientation  
8:00 PM AA Meeting

**Thursday, September 19**  
7:15 AM Wake Up Group  
6:00 PM Interfaith Event  
6:00 PM Handbells

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, September 20

12:00 PM Noontime Al-Anon  
7:30 PM Staff Singer Concert

### Saturday, September 21

4:00 PM WECP Fall Fest

### Sunday, September 22

8:00 AM Infant /Toddler Care  
8:15 AM Worship W/ Communion  
9:00 AM Case Library Conversations  
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds  
9:15 AM Spiritual Life  
9:15 AM Year of the Bible  
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner  
10:30 AM Worship  
10:40 AM Sunday School  
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle  
11:35 AM CE & Youth Meeting  
2:00 PM Buffalo Opera Rehearsal

## WORSHIP AND PREACHING SCHEDULE

### Sunday Worship • 8:15 AM in the Holmes Chapel with Communion • 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

#### TODAY! September 15

#### Choral Evensong and Opening Service for the Buffalo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

3:30 Organ Recital; 4:00 Evensong

The Westminster Choirs lead this festival Evensong at St. John's Grace (51 Colonial Circle)

#### September 22 • Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Cameron Airhart, Preacher; Luke 16:1-13

#### September 29 • Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Beth Hennessy, Preacher; Luke 16:19-31

#### October 6 • World Communion Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, 1 Symphony Circle

#### One Worship Service at 11:00 AM

The Rev. Thang Van Lian, Preacher; Luke 17:5-10

#### Blessing of the Animals Evensong • October 6 • 4 PM

#### Live Stream Worship Services Each Sunday

Can't make it to Worship ? You can still connect with Westminster. Visit our website: [www.wpcbuffalo.org](http://www.wpcbuffalo.org) and click on the link to LiveStream on our homepage.

## NEWS AND NOTES

### WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

If you are visiting and would like to learn more about our programming or mission, please fill out a Welcome Card (found in the pews) and return it to 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 of Westminster.
- We light our Peace Candle to pray for peace—both in our own neighborhoods and across the world.
- Bibles and children's worship guides are available at the Sanctuary entrances.
- For the hearing impaired, wireless receivers are available in the Church Conference Room.
- Childcare for children 5 years old and younger is available from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the school building (across the garden).

- If you need assistance at any time, please ask a Deacon.
- Please pick up your generosity envelopes, which are available on the table in the Holmes Room.

#### TODAY! FAITH SONGS, SPIRIT VOICES II

The second *Faith Songs, Spirit Voices II* of the Network of Religious Communities will be held today, 2-5 PM at the Montante Cultural Center, Canisius College, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo 14208. *Faith Songs, Spirit Voices* is a multi-faith, multi-cultural celebration of the religious diversity of WNY through music, dance, and story telling. Participants include Baragumbu Congolese Choir, Mamta Bhargava Hindu Devotional Singers, Nerva Turkish Violin, Prakriti Dance, a True Bethel Baptist Choir, and more. A \$10 donation is requested. Tickets are available at the NRC office, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209, or at the door.

## CHURCH LIFE

### INQUIRER CLASS

#### September 29 following the 10:30 AM Worship Service

Friends and visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and the ministries we support are invited to attend a meeting immediately following worship. We will share details of 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, sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

**Westminster's Alcohol/Other Drug Education and Referral 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 (882.2064), Phil Stevens (839.3357).

### 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.

### ENERGY

The name ENERGY reflects what we value: Education, Nurture, Encouragement, Readiness, and Growth for Youth. The ENERGY school-year program gathers Monday through Friday from 3:30-6:00 PM 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. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, students receive a one-on-one experience with trained volunteer tutors and staff; and, with our two new extra days, we have the opportunity to offer our students additional enrichment, including boys/girls club and long-term STEM projects. Engaging conversations over a meal, patient review and repetition during homework time, partner reading, and writing help to develop our students' language skills. If you are interested in reading with children, helping with homework, cooking meals, or leading lessons or activities, reach out to volunteer@wedibuffalo.org

**RECOVERING FROM AN ILLNESS OR SURGERY?** Or if you are a caregiver with an ill family member, or have had a new baby, Westminster can provide a simple meal for those in need. Contact Jamie Adamczyk at 884.9437, ext. 326 or jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org,

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

if you've ever thought "I wonder what the students do when they leave before the sermon on Sunday mornings," now is the time to find out! We are in need of additional Sunday School teachers for the fall. Our goal is to have 4 teachers set up for each semester so teachers can switch in and out, as we know schedules are tight. You will have a curriculum, a co-teacher to work with, and the Rev. Katelyn Nutter Dowling will be readily available to help and answer any

questions you might have. We will kick off Sunday School on the 22. Contact Katelyn at katelynnnd@wpcbuffalo.org as soon as possible!

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

We are kicking off a Confirmation Class in conjunction with Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in September. Confirmation is something like a "rite of initiation" that welcomes young people that may have grown up in the faith (or not) to take the Presbyterian Church as their own set of beliefs and polity. For many students, church has been something they've gone to because of you—their parents. This is a wonderful gift you have given your child: a solid foundation on top of which to build their own faith. Confirmation is a chance for the student to ask questions, dig deep, and hopefully, at the end of the process, stand in front of the church and proclaim the PCUSA to be their church of their own free will and choosing. If your student is in grade 8 or above and they have not gone through confirmation, please contact Katelyn at katelynnnd@wpcbuffalo.org to sign up and begin the process of finding a mentor!

**The Confirmation Kick-Off Brunch!** Sunday, October 13, Noon in Case Library. Confirmands and Mentors are welcome to attend our kick-off lunch/breakfast. We will give details for the upcoming journey of confirmation for our Westminster and Lafayette students. To sign up please email Micah, micahnd@wpcbuffalo.org or Katelyn at katelynnnd@wpcbuffalo.org

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY: YEAR OF THE BIBLE CLASS

Sunday mornings, 9:15-10:15 AM and Monday evenings 7:00-8:15 PM. Both classes meet in the Parish Hall

As we begin September, Year of the Bible participants have reached yet another milestone: we have now read 2/3 of the Bible! We continued to meet regularly over the summer as we moved through readings in Old and New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs. We're now working our way through Paul's letters in the New Testament, and we are beginning our journey with the Prophets in the Old Testament. It's not too late to join our group! We meet Sunday mornings 9:15-10:15 AM and Monday evenings 7:15-8:15 PM; both classes meet in the Parish Hall.

### CASE LIBRARY CONVERSATION SERIES

Sundays, 9 AM-10:15 AM in the Case Library  
Case Library Conversations presents opportunities to hear from community leaders, experts and members on local, national, and global issues. These offerings are always lively and intelligent. Participants are invited to dialogue, discuss and respectfully disagree. Through conversations we can examine how our life-long adventure in faith informs our response to these local, national, and international issues.

### September 15

#### NFTA Metro Rail Expansion: Bringing Us Together

Discussion of the 7-mile 10 station expansion of the Metro Light Rail. Speaker: Rachael Maloney Joyner, Planning Project Manager, NFTA

### September 22

#### Connecting Western New York - NFTA Overview

Discussion of numerous expansion and rehabilitation projects, including the Buffalo Niagara Int'l airport; NFTA's plans to make WNY more inviting, accessible and connected. Speaker: Helen Tederous, Director of Public Affairs, NFTA

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

Sundays, 9 AM-10:15 AM in the Heritage Room  
Spiritual Life creates opportunities to explore and reflect together upon the interior life of faith. Discoveries and questions come from topics such as deep listening, gratitude, compassion, grace, and grieving. Poetry and art are frequently woven into a presentation.

### **September 15**

*Contemplative Meditation* with Keith Kristich

Fred Cooley, Organizer

Keith spent many years with the Catholic diocese, including leading meditation groups around Western New York. He will add to our knowledge of why this form of meditation is so valuable, as well as guide us in a short session. He offers Thursday 9 AM group contemplative meditations at Lafayette Presbyterian; all are welcome.

### **September 22**

*Our Big and Little Worlds*, Kathleen Kelly, Presenter

Through her work and travel experience, Westminster Elder Kathleen Kelly has a unique understanding of the refugee children she teaches in the Buffalo Public School System. She will talk about how understanding their frames of reference can help us in our spiritual journey.

## **WOW LUNCETIME BIBLE STUDY**

Begins Monday, September 16, 1-2:30 PM in the Case Library  
Women of Westminster cordially invites you to a Brown Bag Lunctime Bible study on the 3rd Monday of each month. This year we will explore the 2019-2020 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. We conclude with an invitation to pray with the Word in our circles or study groups and in our personal devotions. There will be a nominal fee for the book.

## **FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

### **KNITTING GROUP**

Our next meetings are Wednesday September 18, 7 PM, Friday, October 11, 1 PM, Tuesday, October 22, 7 PM. Our group meets on occasional 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

### **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 September, October, and November. Meet & Mingle is a great way to celebrate a special person or occasion. For more information and to sign up to help, please sign up in the Gallery Room or contact Sawrie Becker at sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org

### **PASSAGES: A PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS**

*Naming the Ties that Divide Us: A Discussion on Race and White Privilege*. Join us on Tuesday, October 1 when Rev. Beth Hennessy, will revisit the subject that was the topic of her thought-provoking August sermon. Beth will facilitate a discussion and invite participants to share their own experiences. Lunch is at 12:30 PM in the Oak Room and the

program is in the Case Library at 1:15 PM. Information and a sign up sheet will soon be on the Information Table in the Gallery Room.

## **WOW BOOK DISCUSSION**

Everyone is welcome to join our annual sharing of favorite books-read evening. We bring information on one or two books we have read, enjoyed, and think others would too. Consider books that would make for a good discussion. During the year we have meetings to discuss the books we've selected. It's a great way to expand our reading lists! **Come meet new friends and connect with old. Tuesday, September 17 at 7 PM.** We will meet at Laura Houghtaling's home, 19 Bondcroft Drive, Amherst. Call 834-8382 if you need directions.

## **HEAVENLY GROUNDS CAFE**

Sundays, 9:00 AM-11:30 AM

Stop by the Oak Room for a cup of coffee or tea as you make your way to Adult Education programs between the worship services, or sit and enjoy with friends after worship.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Westminster is a vibrant faith community because of the time and commitment our members dedicate. We are thankful for our volunteers, and encourage everyone to consider participating in our church life by volunteering your time and talent. If you are interested in the following opportunities please contact Sawrie Becker, 884-9437, ext. 315, or email [sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org)

**Meet & Mingle Coordinator:** 1-2 hours a month. Reach out to members to schedule hosts/shoppers/donors for the Meet & Mingle weekly fellowship hour.

**WECP Coffee & Donuts:** 2 hours a month. Greet WECP Parents with coffee, a donut, and a smile on the second Thursday or Friday of each month.

## **NOMINATIONS WANTED**

The Nominating Committee is calling for thoughtful nominations for elder and deacon positions. Three Year terms will start January 2020. People may self nominate or nominate others. The nominee must be a church member and willing to serve in one of these special leadership roles in the church. Nomination forms are on the Information Table in the Gallery Room. and should be submitted to Sherrie Bernat, [sbernat@roadrunner.com](mailto:sbernat@roadrunner.com), 716.536.4906 or placed in the nominating committee mailbox or offering plate.

## **AROUND OUR COMMUNITY**

Theatre of Youth Company, Inc. (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. TOY believes meaningful childhood experiences in the theatre develop confidence in creative thinking skills, cultivate empathy and establish a life-long connection to the arts.

**IMAGINATION CELEBRATION** for students in Grades K-2, Saturdays, September 28, October 5, October 12 in the Parish Hall, 10 AM-Noon. In this class, children will play pretend. An exploration of creativity through theatre vocabulary and exercises will open minds and also engage children in essential skills like listening, responding, working as a group and being a courageous decision maker. For participant tickets and more information, visit [www.theatreofyouth.org](http://www.theatreofyouth.org)

# Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit

## LAUDA ANIMA

Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr.

John Goss



1. Stars and plan - ets flung in or - bit, gal - ax - ies that  
2. Skies a - dorned with sun - set splen - dor, si - lent peaks in  
3. Life is won - drous, wild pro - fu - sion, seed and fruit, each  
4. Hu - man - kind, earth's deep - est mys - tery, born of dust but  
5. Gra - cious God, we bring be - fore you, gifts of hu - man  
6. Christ, the Word be - fore cre - a - tion as cre - a - tion's



swirl through space, Pow - ers hid with - in the at - om,  
calm re - pose, Gold - en fields a - wait - ing har - vest,  
flower and tree, Beast and fish and swarm - ing in - sect,  
touched by grace, Torn a - part by tongue and col - or,  
life a - lone. Truth that throbs through song and sto - ry,  
fin - nal goal, Once you came for earth's re - demp - tion;



cells that form an in - fant's face: These, O God, in  
foam - ing surf and fra - grant rose: Earth, its boun - ty  
soar - ing bird, re - joic - ing, free: These, your crea - tures,  
yet a sin - gle, striv - ing race: We, in whom you  
vi - sions caught in paint and stone: These, O God, we  
by your Spir - it make earth whole. Then, O God, the



si - lence praise you; by your wis - dom they are made.  
clothed with beau - ty, ech - oes all cre - a - tion's praise.  
join in cho - rus, prais - ing you in word - less song.  
trace your im - age, add our words to na - ture's song.  
glad - ly of - fer, gifts to praise the Giv - er's name.  
new cre - a - tion will your praise for - ev - er sing.

# God Marked a Line and Told the Sea

## OLD HUNDREDTH

Thomas H. Troeger

Attr. Louis Bourgeois



1. God marked a line and told the sea its surg - ing tides and  
2. God set one lim - it in the glade where tempt - ing, fruit - ed  
3. The line, the lim - it and the law are pat - terns meant to  
4. But, dis - con - tent with fi - nite powers, we reach to take what  
5. We are not free when we're con - fined to eve - ry wish that



waves were free to trav - el up the slop - ing  
branch - es swayed, and that first lim - it stands be -  
help us draw a bound be - tween what life re - -  
is not ours, and then de - fend our claims by  
sweeps the mind, but free when free - ly we ac -



strand, but not to o - ver - take the land.  
- hind the lim - its that the law de - fined.  
- quires and all the things our heart de - sires.  
force and swerve from life's in - tend - ed course.  
- cept the sa - cred bounds that must be kept.



Worship in the Holmes Chapel - 8:15 AM

*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**

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

Rev. Hennessy

## Call to Worship

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

We come to this place to search for God.

**But God is already searching for us.**

We come to this place to speak to you.

***But God is already speaking to us***

Let us worship and listen for God,

## Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit

LALIDA ANIMA

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, you know our sin:  
We have squandered the gifts you have given us.  
We have failed to forgive our debtors  
As you have forgiven us.  
We have been unfaithful and dishonest  
In small things and great things alike.  
We are shrewd in seeking wealth  
And foolish in following your way.  
Forgive our sins, O Lord, for your name's sake.  
Make us faithful stewards of the grace you have given  
And generous in forgiving others;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### *Time for silent prayer.*

## Kyrie

*The people sing.*

Thomas Pavlechko (b. 1961)

**Cantor**                            **Congregation**                            **Cantor**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

**Congregation**                    **Cantor**                            **Congregation**

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.



## Assurance of Pardon

### Response

*The people stand to sing.*

Glo-ry to the Cre-a-tor, and to the  
Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost, as it was in the be -  
gin - ning is now and for - ev - er. A - men.

### 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

### Scripture Lesson

Psalm 19

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork <sup>2</sup>One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another. <sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard, <sup>4</sup>Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world. <sup>5</sup>In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course. <sup>6</sup>It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat. <sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent. <sup>8</sup>The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes. <sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. <sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward. <sup>12</sup>Who can tell how often he offends? cleanse me from my secret faults. <sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense. <sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

### Poem

Quarantine

Eavan Boland

In the worst hour of the worst season  
of the worst year of a whole people  
a man set out from the workhouse with his wife.  
He was walking—they were both walking—north.

She was sick with famine fever and could not keep up.  
He lifted her and put her on his back.  
He walked like that west and west and north.  
Until at nightfall under freezing stars they arrived.

In the morning they were both found dead.  
Of cold. Of hunger. Of the toxins of a whole history.  
But her feet were held against his breastbone.  
The last heat of his flesh was his last gift to her.

Let no love poem ever come to this threshold.  
There is no place here for the inexact  
praise of the easy graces and sensuality of the body.  
There is only time for this merciless inventory:

Their death together in the winter of 1847.  
Also what they suffered. How they lived.  
And what there is between a man and woman.  
And in which darkness it can best be proved.



---

## Gospel Lesson

Marcia Buhl

*The people stand.*

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Luke 12:48

<sup>48</sup>From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required;  
and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

## Meditation

Saving Mother Earth

## 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

God Marked a Line and Told the Sea

OLD HUNDREDTH

*The people stand to sing. Hymn can be found on page 11.*

## Benediction

## Closing Voluntary

*Finale from Symphonie IV*

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)



## Worship Leaders

Marcia Buhl, Preacher

The Reverend Beth Hennessy, Pastoral Care Associate

Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries

## In Praise of the Earth

*John O'Donahue (1956-2008) was a priest, theologian, and poet. His writing has been described as "grounded in human vulnerability and the desire, the longing, for a connection to the wonder of the divine in nature and human experience".*

Let us bless  
The imagination of the Earth  
That knew early the patience  
To harness the mind of time,  
Waited for the seas to warm,  
Ready to welcome the emergence  
Of things dreaming of voyaging  
Among the stillness of land.

And how light knew to nurse  
The growth until the face of the Earth  
Brightened beneath a vision of color.

When the ages of ice came  
And sealed the Earth inside  
An endless coma of cold,  
The heart of the Earth held hope,  
Storing fragments of memory,  
Ready for the return of the sun.

Let us thank the Earth  
That offers ground for home  
And holds our feet firm  
To walk in space open  
To infinite galaxies.

Let us salute the silence  
And certainty of mountains  
Their sublime stillness,  
Their dream-filled hearts.  
The wonder of a garden  
Trusting the first warmth of spring  
Until its black infinity of cells  
Becomes charged with dream;  
Then the silent, slow nurture  
Of the seed's self, coaxing it  
To trust the act of death.

The humility of the Earth  
That transfigures all  
That has fallen  
Of outlined growth.

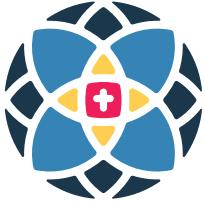
The kindness of the Earth,  
Opening to receive  
Our worn forms  
Into the final stillness.

Let us ask forgiveness of the Earth  
For all our sins against her;  
For our violence and poisonings  
Of her beauty.

Let us remember within us  
The ancient clay,  
Holding the memory of seasons,  
The passion of the wind,  
The fluency of water,  
The warmth of fire,  
The quiver-touch of the sun  
And shadowed sureness of the moon.

That we may awaken,  
To live to the full  
The dream of the Earth  
Who chose us to emerge  
And incarnate its hidden night  
In mind, spirit and light.

John O'Donohue,  
*To Bless the Space Between Us-*  
*A Book of Blessings 2008*



# WESTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • BUFFALO

## Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor  
[tyorty@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:tyorty@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 313

The Rev. Katelyn Nutter Dowling  
Associate Pastor for Christian Education  
[katelynnd@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:katelynnd@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 311

The Rev. Beth Hennessy, Pastoral Care Associate  
[bhannessy@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:bhannessy@wpcbuffalo.org), 716.697.0919

Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries  
[gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 318

Jamie Adamczyk, Administrative Assistant  
[jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 326

Sawrie Becker, Director of Development  
[sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 315

Matthew Marco  
Assistant to the Pastor and to the Director of Music  
[mmarco@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:mmarco@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 306

Lenore Neiler, Graphic Designer  
[lneiler@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:lneiler@wpcbuffalo.org), ext 302

The Rev. Micah Nutter Dowling  
Director of Youth Ministries  
[micahnd@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:micahnd@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 310

Kathryn Wilde, Director of Finance  
[kwilde@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:kwilde@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 305

## Westminster Early Childhood Programs

Dr. Cindy Lynn-Garbe, Director  
[clynn-garbe@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:clynn-garbe@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 328

Todd Bothwell, Associate Director of Admissions  
[tbothwell@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:tbothwell@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 330

Jessica Mitrovits, Development Associate  
[jmitrovits@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:jmitrovits@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 332

Lindsay McGuire, Human Resources  
[lmcguire@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:lmcguire@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 359

Heather Abbott, Administrative Assistant  
[habbott@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:habbott@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 300

## Facilities

Aaron Vivian, Facilities Supervisor  
[avivian@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:avivian@wpcbuffalo.org), ext. 319, 716.504.7308

Jeff Kaczmarek, Maintenance  
ext. 319, 716.345.8013

Austin Becker, Maintenance  
716.479.0668

Luigi Sylejmani, Maintenance  
716.472.5477