



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.



Poem

Quarantine

†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.



Gospel Lesson

The people stand.

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

Mark 4:19

†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



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 Adelman (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 HUNDRETH



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.

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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 WECF 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 AI-Anon
7:30 PM Staff Singer Concert

Saturday, September 21

4:00 PM WECF 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 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 katelynnd@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 katelynnd@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 katelynnd@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 LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY

Begins Monday, September 16, 1-2:30 PM in the Case Library
Women of Westminster cordially invites you to a Brown Bag Lunchtime 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

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

WECF Coffee & Donuts: 2 hours a month. Greet WECF 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, 716.536.4906 or 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

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.



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

Psalms 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork ²One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another. ³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard, ⁴Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world. ⁵In 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. ⁶It 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. ⁷The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent. ⁸The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes. ⁹The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. ¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward. ¹²Who can tell how often he offends? cleanse me from my secret faults. ¹³Above 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. ¹⁴Let 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

⁴⁸From 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 HUNDRETH

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

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