



Two roads diverged. www.flickr.com;
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Sunday Worship

Westminster Church
The United Church of Canada
Sunday, June 26, 2016
6th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 a.m.

“We love because God loved us first.”
1 John 4:19

Words printed in **bold type** are to be spoken by the congregation.
* indicates invitation to stand, as you are able.

ORGAN PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

OPENING INTROIT Dance with the Spirit

(seated) MV #156

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Thom M. Shuman, (adapted, used with permission)

Inspiring God, Giver of words:

you speak and chaos is transformed into the starry skies of night;

you whisper

and the wind leaps to caress our cheeks on a summer's evening;

you smile and all creation rejoices in delight.

Jesus Christ, Uncomfortable Word:

you stand with society's castoffs outside the halls of respectability;

**you break bread with sinners
and give them the seats of honor at your Table;
you walk the darkened hallways of death,
comforting those who are taking their last steps;
and you call to us, saying, "Follow me."**

Holy Spirit, Word with us:

by your touch, our anger can dissolve into gentleness;
by your presence, our enemies can become lifelong friends;
by your joy, our envious spirits can become generous hearts.

**God in Community, Holy in One,
set us free to be your servants,
in ministry here, in ministry now! Amen.**

***HYMN** Let us build a house where love can dwell (v1-3) **MV #1**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

***HYMN** Let us build a house where love can dwell (v4-5) **MV #1**

CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN going in different directions

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Ecumenical Sung Version) **VU p 959**

SCRIPTURE read by Carol Latter

Galatians 5: 13-15,22-26 *freedom is not equal to doing whatever you want*
Luke 9:51-62 *they travelled on to another village*

REFLECTIONS ON SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 *transfer of leadership, about 850 BC*

REFLECTIONS ON SCRIPTURE

SOLO “The Holy City” Words by F.E. Weatherly Music by Stephen Adams
Given by Wes Rambo

LITURGY TO END PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS

Statement of Purpose by Boyd Rausch, WUC Presbytery Rep.

Symbols of Ministry Returned by John and Heather

As we mark the end our pastoral relationship, we return these symbols to you, so that you may entrust particular privileges and responsibilities of leadership to other people.

Bible We return this Bible to you, that you may give the responsibility of proclaiming God’s word to another person.

May God’s Word continue to challenge, nurture, and inspire you.

Cong.: Scripture will continue to be an inspiration in our lives, nurturing and challenging us on the journeys ahead. Thanks be to God.

Water Water is the source of all life, and the water of baptism is the sign of our birth into the Body of Christ. May you continue welcoming new members through the waters of baptism.

Cong.: We will continue to be a baptized and baptizing community. We see the baptismal water as a sign that we are blessed and welcome. Thanks be to God.

Loaf and cup We place this loaf and cup on the table, knowing that another will take it up and continue to share the bread and cup, as you participate in the life of Christ, who is Bread of Life and True Vine.

Cong.: We will continue to break the bread and share the cup. We believe we are invited to gather together to taste and see that God is good. Thanks be to God.

Transition Ministry Binder The current phase of transition ministry is ending; the work of transitioning will continue with different goals and leadership.

Transition Team Member: This binder contains the record of the work done. It will be available to inform incoming ministry leaders, and will remain an important record of how we faced a painful time in our history.

Thank you to Transition Team: given by Board Rep., Carol Latter

Cong.: We thank you, friends, for the great amount of time and care you gave to the work we asked you to do.

You listened carefully, took our anger and hurt and hopes seriously.

You helped us to move forward, to understand a little better, to accept differences more graciously, to see new possibilities.

We thank you; we release you from your commitment to the Transition Team.

Heather & John Members and friends of Westminster United Church, thank you for your kindness, and support during our time with you.

For us it has been a period of challenge and opportunity, of learning and adjustment, of satisfactions and some regrets.

Where we have caused hurt, we ask your forgiveness.

Cong.: We receive your thankfulness and offer our forgiveness.

Where we have offended, we ask your forgiveness.

We are grateful for your guidance and your gifts.

Heather & John: We accept your appreciation and offer our forgiveness.

All: May all of us know the freedom of God's forgiveness and grace, and the peace which heals and restores.

John & Heather: With the ending of this pastoral relationship we relinquish the responsibilities and privileges of serving among you as ministers of Word, Sacrament & Pastoral Care. We will respect the changed nature of our relationship with you. We will offer encouragement and prayers for your continuing ministry, and for new pastoral relationships which you form.

Cong.: We release you, Heather Lea and John Lea, from the duties of the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in this place.

We will respect that your relationship with us has changed. We pray that God's Spirit will lead you to live & serve in other ministries in other places.

All: Together we bear witness to these words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. To God be the glory, thanks and praise!

Prayer

Holy God, your love for all is everlasting.

Help each of us to trust in the future which rests in your care.

In our time together in your name we have known laughter and tears, hopes and disappointments.

Guide us as we hold on to memories and move forward in new directions.

Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANTHEM "King of Heaven" words and music Henry F. Lyte and John Goss
Arranged by Craig Courtney

OFFERING INVITATION

***OFFERING HYMN** We have this ministry **VU # 510**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, receive these gifts we bring.

Through our gifts may suspicion decline and acceptance grow,

may discouragement be transformed into hope,

may endings lead to opportunities,

and may those who fear scarcity discover abundance.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

***HYMN** Be thou my vision **(v1,2,4,5) VU # 642**

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

You are people of God in this place; you are beloved and blessed.
May you be blessed and led forth by promises of the living God.
May you know the blessing of Christ's presence.
And may the Spirit of Life be always your guide and comfort.

May God bless and keep you;

May the light of God's presence shine upon you.

May God's grace go with you in your departing, and give you peace. Amen.

***CHORAL CLOSING**

Breathe on me, breath of God

(v1) VU #382

POSTLUDE

