



Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday, April 1, 2018

Easter Sunday

10:30 am

Our service begins with the Prelude, inviting us to prepare for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship*

This is the day:

**when tears are wiped away;
shattered hearts are mended;
fears are replaced with joy.**

This is the day the Lord:

**rolls away the stone of fear;
throws off death's clothes;
goes ahead of us into God's future.**

This is the day the Lord has made:

**death has no fear for us;
sin has lost its power over us;
God opens the tombs of our hearts
to fill us with life.**

This is the day - Easter Day!

Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

Lighting of the Christ Candle (by Ted Barnett)

Processional Hymn VU 155 **Jesus Christ Is Risen Today**

Prayer of Approach

Anthem Christ the Lord is Ris'n Again by John Rutter

Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, on this morning of empty tombs and hallelujahs, we acknowledge how human we are. We haven't done any great evil, but we have failed to do good when we had the chance. We have not intentionally hurt anyone, nor have we offered healing to the broken. We might easily accept the witness of the angel in the tomb, but find it difficult to live this good news with our lives, and in how we treat our friends and neighbors.

Amazing God, bring us new life. Where we are tired and stressed, give us the energy to serve your creation; transform our hardened hearts into fountains of grace; give us courage and help us make right any damage we may have caused by our action or inaction, and fill us with the joy of your Spirit. In the name of Jesus the Christ, the one who gives us new life, we pray.....

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance

Scripture Reading Janice Anderson

John 20: 1-18

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn MV 171 Christ Has No Body Now but Yours

Prayers of the People

Collection of Offerings

After the offering is introduced, an offertory will be played and the collection taken. Thank you for your gift, whether given today or through other means of supporting ministry at Westminster Church.

Offertory Let Everything that Hath Breath by Jeffery Ames
accompanied by Charmaine Bacon, soloist Nicki Kirton

Offering MV 42 Praise God for This Holy Ground Vs 1

**Praise God for this holy ground,
place and people, sight and sound.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal.**

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Communion

Invitation

Passing of the Peace

One: Peace be with you

All: and also with you

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

One: Let us eat and drink together for our strengthening in the faith and for the sake of the world. Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord

One: Let us give thanks to our God

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: *We praise you and thank you loving God... ..*

... .. You made covenants with your rebellious people over and over again, never completely losing patience with them no matter how hard they tested.

**All: You heard the cries of your people
as slaves, exiles, as outcasts, and each time you responded.**

*One: Your prophets, young and old, in ancient times and new have called us to
listen with our hearts and proclaim your truth with our lives.*

**All: Sometimes we have done that. And sometimes not. Yet you have
continued to love us.**

*One: And when we could not seem to understand you came to live among us,
revealing your nature most fully in Jesus of Nazareth.*

All: You lived our life, bringing healing and new life to a parched world

*One: Jesus sat at table with those whom no one else would invite, touched the
unclean, healed the sick, played with children, and proclaimed your unconditional
love to all who would receive it.*

All: Jesus called men and women as disciples to continue his work

*One: When those in power were angered Jesus declared that even the stones
would cry out, for your word of justice and truth will not be silenced.*

**All: Even when we put Jesus to death you raised him to new life, and in so
doing invite us to share in that life, too.**

*One: You have shown us that nothing, not even death,
can stop you from loving us. So it is that we join the song of all creation to
proclaim your goodness:*

**All: Holy, holy, holy are you
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in your name
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: *On this great day of celebration, we recall Jesus' instruction to his friends:
He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and offered it to them saying "Take
eat; do this and remember me"*

Then he took the cup, and said "Take drink; and remember me"

All: We remember Jesus' integrity unto death.

We celebrate the Easter hope of resurrection.

We remember the promise of compassion and justice.

One: *God of Love, send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here, that we,
and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other,
and to all the world. We gather these and all our prayers, thankful that we may
turn to you and say the words Jesus taught us to pray saying:*

"Our Father/Mother, 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 forgives 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.

Fraction and distribution

Prayer after Communion (Unison)

Holy One, bread of life, may your love be our song.

May your path be our way.

In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

Hymn I Sing Today

I Sing Today

Nathan Poole

R.V. WILLIAMS



1. I sing to - day of God's deep lo - ving care, Who sent a son, who
2. The son of God up - on a cross did die, And called out "Ab - ba
3. Christ gave his life so e - ver I may be A - live to God, with
4. I sing to - day the vic' - try o'er death's sting The mes - sage of e -



all my sin did bear. Christ re - con - ciles me with that love to__
let my spi - rit fly." 'Twas done for me, so glad - ly now I__
Christ I will be free. Re - stored and healed I'll sing e - ter - nal -
ter - nal life I bring To all who hear me, I will e - ver__



share.
cry: Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!
- ly:
sing:

Commissioning and Sending Forth***

On this morning, we welcome God's good news for our lives,
and go out to share it with everyone we meet.

Tomorrow morning, we will go with Jesus to serve the world,
to bring healing to the broken, hope for the despairing.

On every morning to come, we will join the Spirit in living the gospel
with our lives,

to welcome all who have been abandoned by others,
to speak out for all whose voices are silenced by fears.

And as we go, may the love of God, the peace of Christ and the
companionship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, until we meet again.

Amen!

Choral Response

Hallelujah Chorus by G.F. Handel from MESSIAH

Organ Postlude *If departing before the end of the postlude, please do so quietly for the benefit of those remaining to enjoy the music.*

*c) Thom Shuman, Presbyterian Church USA <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca> (adapted)

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Lectionary Readings – April 8 – Second Sunday of Easter

Worship materials for the Second Sunday of Easter to the Fifth Sunday of Easter were contributed by Geoffrey Wilfong-Pritchard, St. Andrew's U.C., Edmonton, Alta.

Acts 4:32–35

The believers shared everything in common.

Psalm 133 (VU p. 856)

How pleasant it is when God's people are together.

1 John 1:1—2:2

God is light; walk in the light.

John 20:19–31

Jesus appears to the disciples; but Thomas is not there.

To Ponder

What does power look like?