



Shrove Tuesday supper at Westminster.

Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

*Over 125 years of ministry in the community –
Moving forward in a tradition of service*

Sunday, March 1, 2020

Lent 1

10:30 am

Words printed in **bold type** are to be spoken by the congregation.

Lenten Reflection – Bringing art and theology together

On the platform this morning, Rev. Bob Burton shares one of his new pieces of artwork, for our contemplation as we enter into the season of Lent, entitled - LORD, LET ME BE AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE

Piano keys, acrylic, St Francis of Assisi prayer on plywood board

By Robert Burton 2020

For more information on this particular work of art, please see Bob's reflections in the Westminster News.

Prelude

Christ Candle is lit

Welcome and News

Centering Music

Call to Worship*

God of the ages, as this season of Lent begins, we come seeking strength and guidance for our journey.

Lent is a time of seeking change.

Give the courage to look at the things we need to examine.

Give us the hope that we can change.

In our worship together, open us to your vision of a new and life-giving way.

Amen

Hymn VU 115

Jesus, Tempted in the Desert

Lenten Liturgy

Brandon Johnston and Nathan Poole

(six candles are lit, for the six Sundays in Lent)

Today is the first Sunday of Lent.

Lent is a time of spiritual reflection and spiritual practice. It is a time when we reflect on those things that may keep us from following God's path of love and peace.

Today we extinguish our first Lenten candle.

This candle represents anger – anger that lives within us, anger that exists in our world; anger that can lead to hatred and violence.

(first candle is extinguished)

As we move through our Lenten journey, may we remember that God’s love and compassion is stronger than anger, and can transform our lives.

Let us pray:

Holy One, you accept us for who we are and love us into who we can be. As we journey through this season of Lent, help us remember that your grace and presence is always with us - even in those shadow places of our lives. May our hearts reflect your loving kindness, and may our lives be channels of your peace. Amen.

Sing: “Take, O Take Me as I Am” (MV 85) *sung twice*

**Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be:
Set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.**

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Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Holy One, often there are things in our lives that we feel alone in and are reluctant to share with others - decisions we regret, brokenness we feel, struggles and burdens we carry. Help us remember we can always come to you in prayer, and share our troubles and our hurts. Remind us we can open our hearts to you and find renewal. Help us listen deeply for your spirit so that we may hear your wisdom and guidance, and help us remember that your love is always with us.....

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance

alone. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (unison)

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 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn MV 64 Because You Came vs 1-4

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Close VU 108 Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights vs 1

Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.

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Organ Postlude

*Written by Beth W Johnston. *Gathering, Lent/Easter 2018, page 31 (adapted)*. Used with permission.

**Written by Gord Dunbar, *Gathering, Lent/Easter 2020, page 30 (adapted)*. Used with permission.

Lectionary Readings

Second Sunday in Lent March 8

Genesis 12:1–4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1–5, 13–17

John 3:1–17 or Matthew 17:1–9

Third Sunday in Lent March 15

Exodus 17:1–7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1–11

John 4:5–42