



Photos from West Broadway Community Ministry

Sunday Worship

Westminster Church

The United Church of Canada

Celebrating over 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday Nov. 25, 2018

Advent 1, Communion Sunday

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

Organ Prelude

Christ Candle is lit

Welcome and News

Centering Music

Call to Worship

The season of Advent is a season of dreaming that another world is possible,

It is a season of looking for signs that the kingdom of God is already here on earth

It is a time to experience the wonder of God found in unexpected ways and in unexpected places

Advent challenges us to hear God's voice calling to us anew

And so we come here today, with all that we bring – our expectations and anxieties, our longings and questions, our joys and our sorrows, our hopes and despairs, our wonder and our awe.....looking for signs of God in our lives....waiting for signs of God in our midst.....and so we worship, remembering God is with us, always.

Hymn VU 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel verses. 1,2

Prayer of Confession

Among the poor,
among the proud,
among the persecuted,
among the privileged,
Christ is coming.

coming to make all things new.

Within us,
without us,
among us,
before us,
in this place,

in every place,
for this time,
for all time,
Christ is coming,
coming to make all things new. Holy God, we come to this time of preparing for Jesus to enter our lives and world once more, to make all things new. We give thanks for the voices of the prophets, which startle us out of complacency; may they help us view the world and our lives as you see them. We give thanks for the stirrings of the Holy Spirit; may those stirrings nudge us to make changes in our own lives and the life of this community. Help us embody Christ's presence in our world.....

Moment of silence for personal reflection.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Assurance

In this season of waiting, the Good News is this: mercy, new life, hope, and joy are the gifts we receive from God every moment of every day.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candles*

(Children are invited to come forward during the lighting of the Advent Candles)

Today is the first Sunday in Advent, and we light the advent candle of hope.

The first candle is lit

Today we pray for hope,

In a world that sometimes feels hopeless:

**God, help us see your vision for our world,
so we may have hope.**

**May your vision give us strength in hard times, and be a cause for
celebration in times of delight.**

Amen

Hymn VU 6 A Candle is Burning vs 1

A candle is burning; a flame warm and bright,

A candle of hope in December's dark night.

While angles sign blessings from heaven's starry sky,

Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

*Following the advent candle lighting the children are welcome to join
Katelyn at the **Children's Table** in the Narthex for a time of activity, story,
conversation and sometimes even music, and are invited to return during
the service of communion.*

Anthem Advent Supplication

by Hal Hopson

Scripture Reading: Rita Menzies

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Luke 21: 25 - 36

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

Thanks be to God.

Message

Hymn VU 457 As We Gather at Your Table

Gratitude Moment – Brandon Johnston, chair of Property Committee

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 With Verdure Clad from CREATION by F. Haydn
given by Jennifer Turner

Offering Doxology MV 36 Glory to God

One: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

All: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

One: To God be glory forever!

All: To God be glory forever!

One: Alleluya, amen!

All: Alleluya, amen! x 4

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Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Communion**

Communion Setting E (VU 942-43)

Words of Invitation

The Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise

*Blessed are you, Breath of peace,
Giver of all life,
Source of love without end... ..*

*... .. We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us
in beginnings and endings, in new life and end of life,
in womb and tomb,
in cradle and cross,
in tenderness and compassion.*

*As we join in the Advent prayer of all your people, saying together -
O come, Emmanuel.*

*And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us once again,
we proclaim your goodness... ..*

Holy, Holy, Holy VU 942-43

*At this time, we also remember
all with whom you would have us share your feast... ..*

*... Grant that, in praise and thanksgiving,
we may so offer ourselves to you
that our lives may proclaim the great mystery of faith:*

Memorial Acclamation VU 943

*Holy God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts so that
we may know Christ's presence in the breaking of the bread and the
pouring of the cup. May our lives be beacons of your peace, joy, love
and compassion in the world, and may your Spirit comfort and inspire us
with hope... ..*

Great Amen VU 943

Holy God, hear us now as with one voice we say together the words Jesus taught his first disciples 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 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, the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking and Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, we give thanks for the breaking of bread and your breaking into our world to show us your holy vision through glimmers of hope, peace, joy and love all around. Inspire our lives through this meal of thanksgiving, and these stories that it tells of love, grace, hope, mystery and miracle. Encourage us, we pray, through the life and care of this faith community. In the name of Christ, we pray, Amen.

Hymn VU 9 People, Look East

Commissioning and Sending Forth***

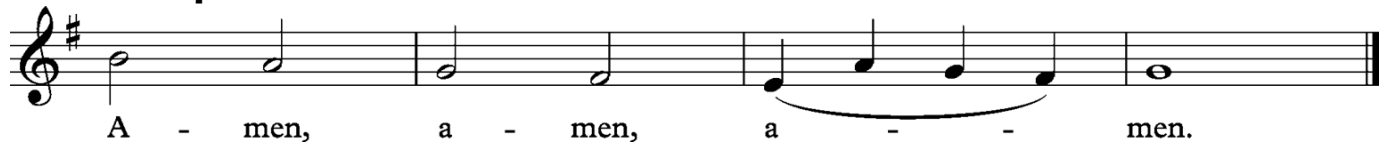
May the candle of hope burn brightly in our hearts, this week as we prepare the way for the Christ child.

May we be signs of hope in our world, as we open our hearts during this season of Advent.

And as we go from here, may we always remember that we never go alone – for the love of God, the peace of Christ and gift of the Holy Spirit are with us always... ..thanks be to God.

Amen

Choral Response “Amen”



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

*Written by Ryan McNally. **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2018-2019, page 31 (adapted). Used with permission.

Communion liturgy written by **Alydia Smith, Program Coordinator, Worship, Music, and Spirituality, General Council Office (adapted).

***Written by Wanda Winfield. **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2018-19, pg 35 (adapted). Used with permission.

Lectionary readings

December 9 – Advent 2

Worship materials for Advent were contributed by Maggie Watts-Hammond, Gilmore Park U.C., Richmond, B.C.

Gathering, A/C/E 2017-2018, page 6. Used with permission.

Isaiah 40:1–11 Comfort, O comfort, my people.

Psalms 85:1–2, 8–13 (VU p. 802) Will you be angry with us forever?

2 Peter 3:8–15a The day will come like a thief in the night.

Mark 1:1–8 The preaching of John the Baptizer.

To Ponder

When you are on a journey, when you feel far from home, what brings you comfort?