



# Sunday Worship

Westminster Church

The United Church of Canada

*Celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community*

Sunday, September 2, 2018

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
and Labour Day Weekend

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

Organ prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

Welcome and news

**Introit** VU 315 “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”, vs. 1

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

### **Call to Worship\***

The sun shines in the prairie sky, even when clouds cover it;  
The promise of new beginnings blossom and burst forth every  
morning, even when it is hard to get out of bed;  
Trees raise their crooked fingers in praise against the sky, and birds  
soar on the wind’s breezes everyday –

**all signs of God’s holy presence, always with us.**

The creative energy of the universe, the quiet beauty of this sanctuary,  
the soul-filling music sung or heard, time together as we give thanks,  
sacred times around the table, the holy moments when compassion  
leads, and hearts and hands reach out to a sister or brother in need -

**all signs of God’s holy presence, always with us.**

Come friends, let us worship God this morning, and give thanks.

**Amen.**

**Hymn** VU 218      We Praise You, O God

### **Prayer of Confession\*\*** *(inspired by reading from James 1)*

**Generous God, we confess that we can be all too stingy with your grace. We  
rush to judge others and are quick to get angry or raise our voice. Merciful  
God, help us overcome these often unhelpful and challenging ways of  
ours. Help us to lead with patience and gentleness, and a willingness to listen  
a little more often than we talk. Help us to understand ourselves and live as  
those who hear and follow your word, your path of peace, faithfully. Help us  
be the blessings you call us to be.....**

*Moment of silence for personal confession.*

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.

**Words of Assurance\*\*\*** *(Inspired by reading from Song of Solomon)*

Friends, listen and understand - the voice of the Beloved speaks to us, implanting the word of hope, the word of grace, and the word of forgiveness into our hearts.

**Every gift comes from God, especially the gifts of mercy, and forgiveness, and love. Let us begin again, with lighter and open hearts. Thanks be to God, Amen.**

**The Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**Scripture Readings** Liz Wijtkamp

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

James 1: 17-27

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky

**Message**

**Solo** Deep River  
given by Sandra Bender

by T.H. Burleigh

**Collection of Offerings and Offertory**

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

## **Offering Doxology      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.**

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## **Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

**Holy God, accept these gifts and the gifts that are our lives  
so that we may be a sign of your love for the world  
now and forever,  
amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Lord’s Prayer (Spoken)**

**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.**

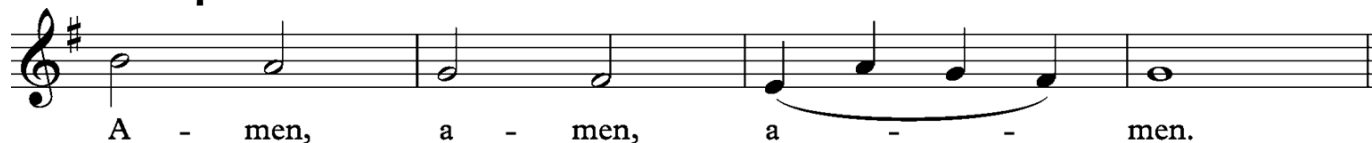
## **Hymn VU 507    Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples**

### **Commissioning and Sending Forth**

**Now let us leave our time together -  
Grateful, hopeful, and anticipating all the wonders God would do in our lives,  
and in our world.**

May we leave inspired and grateful for all that is and all that can be.  
Remembering always that God is with us ...  
**And we are not alone.**  
**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.*

*\*based on, inspired by and adapted from a poem by Richard Wagamese, in Embers, p. 147.*

**\*\* C)** Amy Loving, from “The Worship Closet.” <http://worshipcloset.com> (adapted)

**\*\*\* Thom Shuman** <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca> 2015 (adapted)

### Lectionary Readings: September 9 – Sixteenth after Pentecost Creation Time 1 in the Season of Pentecost - Proper 18

**Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2018, page 4. Used with Permission.**

Worship materials for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost to the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost were contributed by Fran Ota, Trillium U.C., Caledon, Ont., and Nancy Arthur Best, Queenswood U.C., Orleans, Ont.

**Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23** - A good name rather than riches.

**Psalms 125 (VU p. 849)** - Do good, O God, to those who are good.

**James 2:1–10, (11–13), 14–17** - Faith without works is dead.

**Mark 7:24–37** - The Syrophenician woman’s faith challenges Jesus.

### To Ponder

When have you been challenged by an unexpected source to change your views on something about which you feel strongly?