



Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday December 3, 2017

Advent 1, Communion Sunday

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

Prelude

Christ Candle is lit

Welcome and News

Introit MV 1 Let Us Build a House vs. 5

**Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words with-in the Word.**

**Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:**

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

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Call to Worship

Today we begin the journey through Advent -

a time of preparation and new beginnings;

a time of hope and miracles;

a time of waiting for the Christ child, Emmanuel, God-with-us;

a time of waiting for the Holy who always shows up in the most amazing places and in unexpectedly small ways....

Come, let us worship God. Amen.

Hymn VU 1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Verses 1-3)

Community Connection – Share a sign of hope you saw/experienced this week.

Advent Video – Hope*

Advent Candle Lighting (Nathan Poole and Brandon Johnston)

In a world filled with doubt, fear, and uncertainty,

we are called to reflect God's hope.

This is a hope that is not reliant on things or possessions.

Our hope is rooted in the coming of a child – the Holy One.

May God grant us the courage to share this hope.....

(light the first Advent Candle)

Let us pray:

Holy God, as we begin our journey to Bethlehem, may your gift of hope inspire our lives and bring light to our world. AMEN

Sung Response

Advent Carol

words

NATHAN POOLE

BRANDON JOHNSTON

music

CAROL; RICHARD STORRS WILLIS

We wait in hope this Ad - vent day, The can - dle is bur - ning bright, — Our
hope shines bright to show the way The way of truth and light. — We
live in hope that we might be God's voice to all — that hear: — Good
News of hope for all who see God's work through all — the year.

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Prayer of Confession**

God who is drawing near to us:
we live in a world of violence,
which we do not condemn enough:

Come to us, with your peace.

We are filled with the best of intentions,
but are unable to follow through with action:

Come to us, with your will.

We are people with limitations and shortcomings, who are afraid
to gaze into your mirror of grace:

Come to us, with your mercy.....

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 our God.

Thanks be to the God of Advent, who came in the Child, who is with us in the Spirit, who will come again in glory. Amen.

Anthem

Canticle of Praise

by Victor Cohen Johnson

Scripture Reading: Katherine Abra

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Mark 13: 24-37

Message*get ready, keep awake*... ..

Hymn MV 20

God of Still Waiting

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 MV 18

Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,

pure and holy tried and true;

with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

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Offering Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Communion

Communion Setting E (VU 942-43)

The Invitation

Passing 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 them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and Praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God... ..

.... "O Come Emmanuel" as we wait and watch and proclaim your goodness once again...

Holy, Holy, Holy

VU 942-43

As we gather at this table, we remember

....that in praise and thanksgiving, we may offer you the gift of our lives, so that our lives may proclaim the 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 followers 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, may your gifts of love and compassion transform and inspire us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace and your love. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response VU 18 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:**

**Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!**

**The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where God,
our God, may go!**

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

**(United Church of Canada/Advent Unwrapped/2015)*

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Lectionary Readings - December 10, 2017 – Advent 2

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 3:8–15 - 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?