



# Sunday Worship

Westminster Church

The United Church of Canada

Sunday,

January 5 2020

**“I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.”** Jeremiah 31:13

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

**Prelude**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Welcome and News**

## Call to Worship

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**Many: Darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples;**

**but the Lord will rise upon you and his glory will be seen upon you.**

One: Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

**Many: Violence shall no more be heard in your land,  
ruin or destruction within your borders.**

One: The sun shall be no more your light by day,  
nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night.

**Many: For the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your God will be your glory.**

**HYMN VU 43** Go Tell It On the Mountain

**Prayer of Confession:** God of power and might, of grace and of love, heaven and earth are full of your glory. You chose to become one of us in Jesus Christ, sharing our joy and sorrow, manifesting your greatness in the child of the manger. And so we praise you for your love which is great enough to embrace the universe, **yet close enough to enter our hearts.**

During our worship, surprise us with your grace that we, with the rest of the church and the whole creation, may praise and adore you,

O God, our Creator and Redeemer in recalling all that God is and does we become aware of who we are and what we have done to this Creation. Let us confess together our sins:

God of mercy and loving-kindness, you sent Christ among us as a gift **to be the light of the world and to reveal your love for creation and all people.**

We confess that our sins and **pride hide the brightness of your light.**

**We waste our gifts of wisdom.**

In your mercy, cleanse us and make us new.

***Moment of silence for personal confession.***

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Words of Assurance**

Be assured of God's love and forgiveness; begin again with God and with one another and be at peace. Amen

**Anthem:** It is Well with my Soul

Arr. John Ness Beck

## Children's Time

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

**Scripture Reading:** read by Bob Gold

**Jeremiah 31: 7-14**

**John 1:16-18**

**Ephesians: 1: 11-13**

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

**People:** **Thanks be to God**

**Message** "I Will Comfort Them"

**Hymn:** VU 375 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

## COLLECTION OF OFFERINGS AND OFFERTORY

*O God, in whose mercy we find our peace, in whose presence we find our place, in whose world we find our calling. We offer these gifts as we seek to follow Your way in all we do.*

*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: **Glory to God**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest

Glory to God, glory of God, hallelujah hallelujah

**Solo:** Mary, Did You Know ?                      Given by Fred Simpson  
words by Mark Lowry, music by Buddy Greene ; arr. Jack  
Schrader

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Light of the minds that know you, strength of those who serve you, wisdom of those who seek after you: shine into the dark places of this world and cast your light into the shadows of our lives as we present our offerings.

**Awaken us to the needs of those who carry heavy burdens; who do not know where to turn; those with broken hearts and secrets that impinge life. Give them peace and save us from hiding in blindness or denial and give us grace to share one another's burden.**

We pray for people who are celebrating today, who welcome good news or new possibilities, who have reason to celebrate with joy; give us the grace to share one another's joy.

**Awaken us to the needs of those who do not have enough to eat or adequate shelter and those who have enough to share but no one to share with. Sustain them and give us grace to share what we have with each other.**

Awaken us to the anguish of those who are filled with grief because of a loss that forever has altered their lives; of those who are ill or dying, and those who are bereaved. Give them peace and give us grace to share one another's grief. Give leaders in our churches and communities the wisdom and courage to do what is just and give us the grace to speak and act honestly, wisely, and graciously always. And now we join our voices into one prayer and pray as Jesus taught us,

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 38 Angels We Have Heard On High**

### **Commissioning And Sending Forth**

Light of God to give us hope. Power of God to protect us. Light of God to give us joy. Peace of God to calm us. Light of God to give us faith. Grace of God to save us this day and forever more.

**Choral Amen**

**Postlude**