



Sunday Worship

Westminster Church

The United Church of Canada

Sunday, May 6, 2018

celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sixth Sunday of Easter

*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*

We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos,
our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.

We gather to lift our praise to the God who gives us voice,
we bring the songs which have echoed in our hearts all week long.

We gather as the children of God, our joy unbroken in God's love.
young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched,
lift the new, new songs of faith.

Hymn VU 217 All Creatures of Our God and King

Prayer of Confession **

Gracious God we come to this moment aware that our lives are often lived out of tune with the way of your Love and joy. We want to learn new songs but those haunting turns of our past mistakes run through our heads instead. You call us to make a joyful noise yet often our voices are rendered silent by the pain and hurt we have experienced ourselves, or may have caused others. Open our hearts to your song of forgiveness and Love so that new songs of hope and joy may transform our lives and lighten our way forward. In the name of Jesus, we pray.....

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance

This is our good news - the song is there for our hearing and embracing. We are loved. We are forgiven. Hope and joy are ours.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Anthem

Hymn of Creation

arr. Mark Hayes

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture Reading Rita Menzies

Psalm 98 (found in VU 818, refrain 2)

John 15: 12-17

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

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

MV 154

Deep in Our Hearts

Message

Solo Thou Art Gone Up on High
given by Fred Simpson

from MESSIAH by G.F. Handel

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

Prayers of the People

The 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 697 O for a World

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response MV 214 May God's Sheltering Wings Vs 1

**May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love, and hold you in her love.**

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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.*

* Thom Shuman, 2018 <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

**inspired by - Thom Shuman, 2018 <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>



Lectionary Readings - May 6 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Worship materials for the Sixth Sunday of Easter to the Seventh Sunday of Easter were contributed by Fern Gibbard, Penticton U.C., Penticton, B.C. Gathering, L/E 2018, page 23, 24. Used with permission.

May 10 – Ascension Day (Thursday)

Acts 1:1–11 - The Ascension of Jesus.

Psalm 47 - Clap your hands, all you peoples.

Ephesians 1:15–23 - Paul prays for the church at Ephesus.

Luke 24:44–53 - Jesus explains scripture.

To Ponder

Do you consider yourself powerful? Why or why not?

May 13 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15–17, 21–26 - Matthias is elected as an apostle.

Psalm 1 (VU p. 724) - Blessed are those who delight in God's law.

1 John 5:9–13 - The testimony of God is greater than human testimony.

John 17:6–19 - "May my joy be made complete in them."

To Ponder

What does family mean in your life? How has your understanding of family changed with time?