



Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

The United Church of Canada

Celebrating over 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Lent 5

10:30 am

Our service begins with the Prelude, inviting us to prepare for worship.

Organ Prelude

Welcome and News

Centering Music – Jennifer Turner

Call to Worship

Hymn VU 256 O God, Beyond all Praising

Lenten Liturgy – *The Tuesday morning knitting group:*

*Susan Hachey, Maggie Hodson, Pat Mochnacz, Nathan Poole
(two candles are lit before the service)*

Today is the fifth Sunday of Lent.

Lent is a time of reflection, when we think about those things that keep us from following God's path of loving and caring for one another, and the world.

Today we extinguish our fifth Lenten candle. This candle represents envy – envy within us; envy that limits our capacity for gratitude; envy that keeps us from living with open-hearts and generous spirits.

(Candle is extinguished)

As we move through this Lenten journey, may we remember that God's love and compassion are stronger than all the envy, pride and arrogance, fear, greed and anger in our world. Let us pray:

Holy God, you accept us for who we are, and love us into who we can be. Help us remember that your grace and presence are always with us - even in those shadow places of our lives. Help us reflect your love in our hearts and our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Sing: "Take, O Take Me as I Am" (MV 85) *sung twice*

**Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be:
Set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.**

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, there always seems so much to do and so much demanded of us in all corners of our lives - in our homes, our relationships, our church, our community, and in our world. We often wonder why others aren't doing more, or why it is left to us to carry the load. It can be so easy to jump to judgement or blame or anger. And our hearts forget to give thanks for all that is.

Help us seek a different path - a path of restoration and wholeness. Help us hear Jesus' invitation to free ourselves from our burdens and our judgments, and open ourselves to your grace. And help us faithfully follow your path of peace, compassion and gratitude.....

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance

Love forgives, reconciles and redeems. God's Love calls us to love others as we are loved. God's Love is open to us always, and offers new beginnings everyday.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

At the River

by Aaron Copland

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Following the passing of the peace, the younger crowd is welcome to join Katelyn at the **Children's Table** in the Narthex for a time of activity, story, conversation and sometimes even music.

Scripture Readings: Lynn E. Soens

Isaiah 43: 16-19a

John 12: 1-8

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

Thanks be to God.

Message

Hymn MV 79

Spirit, Open My Heart

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

Offering Doxology VU 541 Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow
(public domain)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures high and low;

give thanks to God in love made known:

Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Prayer of Dedication

The Prayers of the People

Hymn VU 238

O Lord My God

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response VU 964 Go Now in Peace (sung twice) –

Go now in peace, go now in peace.

May the love of God surround you

everywhere, everywhere, you 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.*

April 14 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Worship materials for Holy Week were contributed by David Sparks, Summerland, B.C. Used with permission, Gathering, L/E 2019, page 16 – 22.

Liturgy of the Palms

Luke 19:28–40

Jesus enters Jerusalem to cheering crowds.

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 (VU p. 837, Parts One, Three, and Four)

The stone which the builders rejected.

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a

They struck my back and plucked my beard.

Psalm 31:9–16 (VU p. 758, Parts Two and Three)

My body and soul are wasting away.

Philippians 2:5–11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ.

Luke 22:14—23:56

Judas betrays Jesus; arrest, trial, crucifixion.

or **Luke 23:1–49**

Jesus is arrested, tried, and crucified.

To Ponder - What does Palm/Passion Sunday mean for you? Do the palms or the passion speak to you more?

April 18 – Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1–4, (5–10), 11–14

Instructions for celebrating Passover.

Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19 (VU p. 836)

How can I repay your goodness, God?

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

First account of the Last Supper.

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

A new commandment to love one another.

To Ponder - Consider the extent and compassion of your Christian service. How would you rate the priority you give to helping fellow human beings and neighbours?

April 19 – Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

He was despised, a man of sorrows.

Psalm 22 (VU p. 743)

My God, why have you forsaken me?

Hebrews 10:16–25

Provoke one another with love and good deeds.

or **Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9**

Jesus the High Priest learned obedience.

John 18:1—19:42

Jesus is arrested, tried, and crucified.

To Ponder - What ending did you dread that turned into something better than you could have imagined?

April 21 – Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34–43

Peter preaches at the house of Cornelius.

or **Isaiah 65:17–25**

A new heaven and earth; the wolf and the lamb together.

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24 (VU p. 837, Parts One, Two, and Three) God is my strength and my song.

1 Corinthians 15:19–26

We die in Adam and are made alive in Christ.

John 20:1–18

Mary the Magdalene and Simon Peter find the empty tomb.

or **Luke 24:1–12**

The women report that the tomb is empty.

To Ponder - How do you live the resurrection day by day?