



*Happy  
International  
Women's  
Day!*

**Sunday Worship**  
Westminster United Church  
Over 125 years of ministry in  
the community –  
**Moving forward in a  
tradition of service**

**Sunday, March 8, 2020**  
**Lent 2**  
**10:30 am**

*During Lent there will be tea lights available on the platform at the front of the sanctuary. Prior to worship, as you come into the sanctuary (and until the service starts) you are invited to light a tea light if you wish, in silence, as a personal remembrance, prayer, blessing, joy or acknowledgement/honouring during this Lenten time.*

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

**Prelude**

**Welcome and News**

## Centering Music

### Call to Worship/Approach

Christ of the comfortable,  
you call us  
from our security and sameness,  
down that unknown path  
which leads to God's heart -

**with trust, we can place  
our hands in yours, and follow.**

You beckon us  
out of the shadows of our fears,  
and call us to bring our doubts  
and questioning hearts along -

**with humility and open hearts,  
help us listen  
to those holy whispers that we do not  
expect, or even understand.**

Gracious God,  
you fill us with life  
even when we see only emptiness;  
you keep your promises,  
even when ours fall scattered on the ground -

**And your presence and grace transforms our lives.**

Spirit of new life -  
**be with us as we worship this morning.**

**Thanks be to God, Amen.**

**Hymn VU 642          Be Thou My Vision**

- 1    Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that thou art,  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.**
  
- 2    Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;  
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;  
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**
  
- 3    Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.**
  
- 4    Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
  
- 5    Great God of heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

### **Lenten Liturgy**

*(Five Candles are lit to represent the five remaining Sundays in Lent)*

Today is the second Sunday of Lent.

Lent is a time of spiritual reflection and spiritual practice. It is a time when we reflect on those things that may keep us from following God's path of love and peace with one another and our world.

Today we extinguish our second Lenten candle.

This candle represents greed – greed within us; greed that exists in our world; greed that fosters dissatisfaction, dismisses kindness, and mocks generosity and caring for others.

*(Candle is extinguished)*

As we move through our Lenten journey, may we remember that God's love and compassion are stronger than greed and anger, and can transform our lives.

Let us pray:

**Holy One, you accept us for who we are and love us into who we can be. As we journey through this season of Lent, help us remember that your grace and presence is always with us - even in those shadow places of our lives. May our hearts reflect your loving kindness, and may our lives be channels of your peace. 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.**

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## **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Holy God, we often think we have nothing to learn from those who have gone before us - our ancestors in the faith like Abraham or Sarah or the disciples or Paul – because their time was so long ago. Instead, we look for answers online, convinced the peace we seek can be found there. Or we close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can't get in to transform our lives. But you continue to keep watch over us, no matter how many times we turn our backs to you. You are there in the joy-filled times, the shadowed moments of uncertainty and the dark nights. You do not stumble in faithfulness to us, even when we stumble in our faithfulness to you. We are blessed by the abundance of your gifts of grace, even when we struggle to believe it is true....**

*Moment of silence for personal confession.*

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

## **Words of Assurance**

**Anthem**

Child Be Still

by Winnifred Sim

**Transfer of Membership**

Elsie Hughes

*transferring from Immanuel United Church*

## **Transfer of Membership Acknowledgement**

**Commitment of Transferring Member**

*Elsie, will you join with us here at Westminster*

*As together we celebrate God's presence,*

*Live with respect in creation,  
Love and serve others,  
Seek justice and resist evil?*

*If yes, please answer “I will, with God’s help”*

## **Congregational Commitment**

*Friends in Christ,*

*Let us pledge our support and care to Elsie –*

**As your brothers and sisters in Christ,**

**We rejoice in your presence and the gifts you bring.**

**We pledge our love and support to you.**

**With God’s help, we will live out the mission and ministry  
Of Christ’s church together.**

## **Prayer**

### **The Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(for the next while, we will not be shaking hands during the passing the peace; folks are invited to share the peace in other respectful ways – by simply sharing the words of peace, or with a nod and smile, or by bowing to one another with hands in prayer pose, etc)*

*Following the passing of the peace, the younger crowd is welcome to join Katelyn for **Sunday School** in the Chapel for a time of activity, story, and conversation.*

**Scripture Reading:** Katherine Abra

Genesis 12: 1-4a

Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

John 3: 1-17

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## Message

Hymn VU 574      Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love

- 1    **Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,  
         tender and true, tender and true,  
out of the heart of the Father above,  
         streaming to me and to you:  
wonderful love, wonderful love  
dwells in the heart of the Father above.**
  
- 2    **Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell  
         joyfully came, joyfully came,  
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,  
         sharing their sorrow and shame,  
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,  
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.**
  
- 3    **Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;  
         why do they roam? why do they roam?  
Love only waits to forgive and forget;  
         home, weary wanderers, home!  
Wonderful love, wonderful love  
dwells in the heart of the Father above.**
  
- 4    **Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!  
         Come and abide, come and abide,  
lifting my life till it rises above  
         envy and falsehood and pride:  
seeking to be, seeking to be  
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.**

## **Minute for Mission**      “Planting a Path to Reconciliation”

John Grivell

### **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.*

### **Doxology** MV 191    What Can I Do? (With repeat)

**What can I do? What can I bring?**

**What can I say? What can I sing?**

**I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.**

**I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

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### **Prayer of Dedication**

#### **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (unison)**

**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 333    Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,**



all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver;  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

### **Commissioning and Sending Forth**

**Choral Close VU 108** Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights vs 1

**Throughout these Lenten days and nights  
we turn to walk the inward way,  
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,  
we live in hope till Easter Day.**

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## **Organ Postlude**

### **Lectionary Readings**

#### **Third Sunday in Lent March 15**

Exodus 17:1–7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1–11

John 4:5–42

#### **March 22 – Lent 4**

1 Samuel 16:1–13

Psalm 23 (VU pp. 747–749)

Ephesians 5:8–14

John 9:1–41