



# Sunday Worship

Westminster Church

The United Church of Canada

*Celebrating over 125 years of ministry in the community*

**Sunday Dec. 9, 2018**

**Advent 2**

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

**Organ Prelude**

**Christ Candle is lit**

**Welcome and News**

**Centering Music**

## **Call to Worship/Approach** (Isaiah 40: 3-5)

And the prophet said to the people,  
In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
**make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
**and every mountain and hill be made low;**  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
**and the rough places a plain.**

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
**and all people shall see it together.**

**Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn VU 1** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Vs. 3,4

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

**Holy One, take our hearts and transform them. Take our rough edges and let them become gentle. Take our fears and let them become wonder. Take our anger and let it become inspiration. Turn our grief to compassion, our discouragement to acceptance, and our self-absorption to love. Where we doubt, grant us courage; and where we are hurting, help us find forgiveness. May our broken hearts become our strength; and may our lives reflect your holy path....**

## ***Moment of silence for personal reflection.***

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

## **Assurance**

## Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy – The Candle of Peace

(children are invited to come forward at this time to help Katelyn during the advent candle liturgy)

(one candle already lit)

Today we light the advent candle of peace.

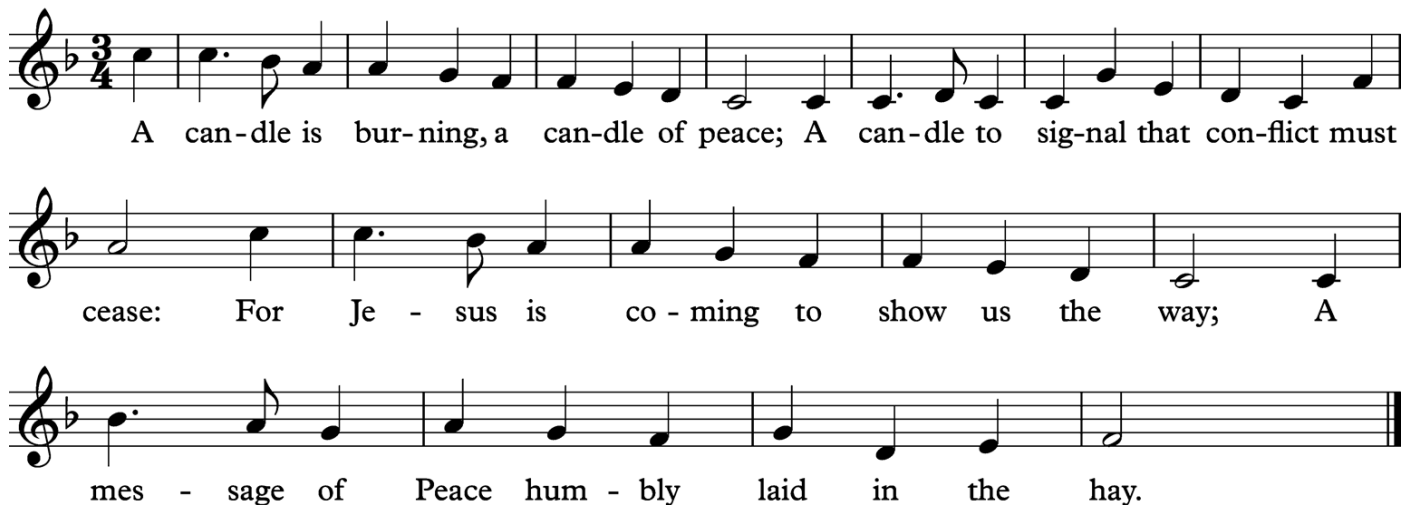
*The second candle is lit*

Today, we pray for peace,  
In a world that sometimes feels tumultuous.  
Let us pray:

**God, grant us a vision of your future,  
So we may be people of peace.  
Let it give us calm in times of chaos  
And gratitude in times of reconciliation.  
Amen**

### Hymn

## A Candle is Burning



A can-dle is bur-ning, a can-dle of peace; A can-dle to sig-nal that con-flict must  
cease: For Je - sus is co - ming to show us the way; A  
mes - sage of Peace hum - bly laid in the hay.

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## **The Passing of 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.*

**Anthem**      Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes      by Hal H. Hopson

**Scripture Reading:**      Susie Conrad

**Malachi 3: 1-4**

**Luke 3: 1-6**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn VU 901**      Song of Zechariah

*(this hymn is based on Luke 1: 68-79 – another of the four lectionary readings for today)*

**Message**      .....a voice in the wilderness....

**Solo**      Thy Love is Mine      from Cantata Sleepers Wake - Bach  
given by Fred Simpson and Rebecca McIntosh

## **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 MV 36    Glory to God**

**One:** Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

**All:** Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

**One:** To God be glory forever!

**All:** To God be glory forever!

**One:** Alleluya, amen!

**All:** Alleluya, amen! x 4

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## **Prayer of Dedication\* (unison)**

**May these gifts sound notes of faith and promise through our ministries here in this church, and in places far beyond these walls. May this offering - and the offering of our lives - herald your love and bring hope to the world.    Amen.**

## **The Prayers of the People and 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;**

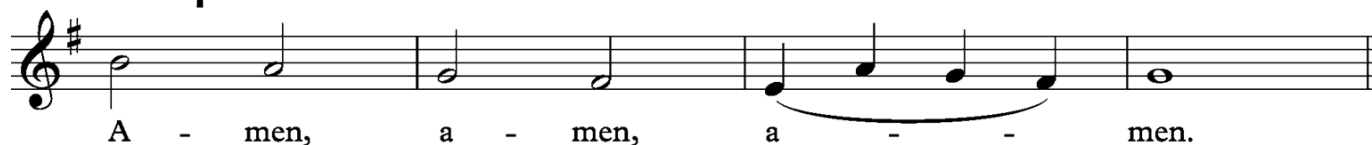
**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Commissioning and Sending Forth

### Choral Response “Amen”



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

*\*Written by Karen Boivin. Gathering, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2018-19, page 35. (adapted) Used with permission.*

### Lectionary readings

#### December 17 – Advent 3

*Worship materials for Advent were contributed by Maggie Watts-Hammond, Gilmore Park U.C., Richmond, B.C.*

*Gathering, A/C/E 2017-2018, page 8. Used with permission.*

#### **Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11**

The spirit of the Lord is upon me.

#### **Psalm 126** (VU p. 850)

Sow in tears; reap in joy.

or **Luke 1:47–55** (VU pp. 898–899)

Song of Mary.

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:16–24**

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing.

#### **John 1:6–8, 19–28**

John testified to the Light.

#### To Ponder

What is the power source for your preaching? Prayer is key. Upon what else do you rely?