



Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday December 10, 2017

Advent 2, White Gift Sunday

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

Carol sing - 10:15 to 10:30, see page 6

Prelude

Christ Candle is lit

Welcome and News

Introit MV 1 Let Us Build a House vs. 5

**Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words with-in the Word.**

**Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:**

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Words and Music: Marty Haugen, © GIA Publications 1994. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-720863

Call to Worship (*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.

Come, let us worship God.

Hymn VU 29 Hark the Glad Sound

Community Connection – When do you feel times of peace?

Advent Video – Peace*

Advent Candle Lighting (Liz Witjkamp and Parker Smith?)

In a world filled with broken relationships, broken hearts, and broken spirits,
we are called to build God's dream of peace.

This is a peace that is not the absence of chaos, noise, or war.

God's way of peace is found in the ways of compassion and kindness, respect and gentleness, justice and love.

Grant us the courage to be God's people of peace.....

(Light the 2nd Advent Candle)

Let us pray:

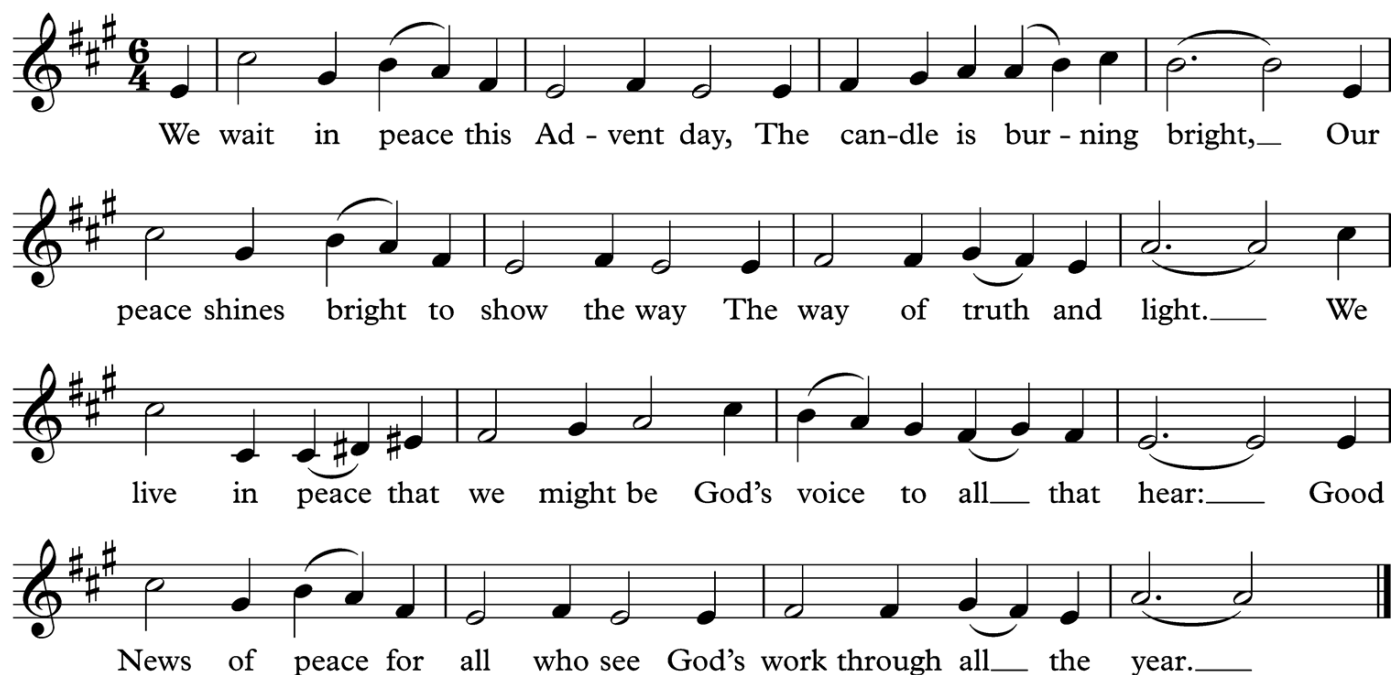
Holy God, as we move closer to Bethlehem, may your gifts of hope and peace inspire our lives and bring light to our world. Amen.

Sung Response

Advent Carol

words by
NATHAN POOLE
BRANDON JOHNSTON

music by RICHARD SORIS WILLIS 1850



We wait in peace this Ad - vent day, The can - dle is bur - ning bright, — Our
peace shines bright to show the way The way of truth and light. — We
live in peace that we might be God's voice to all — that hear: — Good
News of peace for all who see God's work through all — the year. —

Copyright © Westminster Church

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy One, take our hearts and transform them. Take what is rough in us, and let it become gentle. Take our fears and let them become wonder. Take our anger and let it become sorrow. Take our grief and let it become

compassion. Take our discouragement and let it become acceptance. Take our self-absorption and let it become love. Where we doubt, grant us courage. Where we are hurting, help us find forgiveness. Take our broken hearts and let them become our strength. Take our lives and let them become yours....

Moment of silence for personal reflection.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Assurance

Anthem I Hear the Prophet Calling
solo by Nicki Kirton

by Pepper Choplin

The Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Scripture Reading: Carol Harvey

Mark 1: 1-8

Hymn MV 12 Come Touch our Hearts

Message

Solo Come Thou Dear Redeemer
given by Fred Simpson

by C. Franck

Collection of Offerings and Offertory, and Presentation of White Gifts

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 MV 18 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

Words and music: John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs, © Whole Armour & Full Armour Publishing Companies 1982. All rights reserved. Reprinted under [OneLicense.net](https://www.onelicense.net) #A-720863

Offering Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

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.**

Hymn VU 20 On Jordan's Bank

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response VU 18 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where God,
our God, may go!**

Words: James Lewis Milligan, 1925, alt. © Church Publishing; Music: ASCENSION(BANCROFT) Henry Hugh Bancroft © Church Publishing 1938. All rights reserved. Reprinted under [OneLicense.net](https://www.onelicense.net) #A-720863

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

*United Church of Canada/Advent Unwrapped/2015

We Three Kings

words by JOHN HENRY WATKINS JR.

music by JOHN HENRY WATKINS JR.



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are Bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
4. Myrrh is mine, its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of ga - ther - ing gloom;
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; King and God and sa - cri - fice;



Field and foun tain, moor and moun - tain Fol - lo - wing yon - der star. ____
King for - ev - er, cea - sing ne - ver ov - er us all to reign. ____
Prayer and prai - sing voi - ces rais - ing wor - ship - ing God on high. ____
Sor - rowing sigh - ing, bleed ing dy - ing Sealed in the stone cold tomb. ____
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies. ____



O, ____ Star of won - der, star of night, star of ro - yal beau - ty



bright! West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing Guide us to thy per - fect light.

Lectionary Readings - December 17 – Advent 3

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 - The spirit of the Lord is upon me.

Psalms 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?