



Cross, Henri Edmond, 1856-1910. Landscape with Stars,
from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Sunday Worship

Westminster Church

The United Church of Canada

Celebrating over 125 years of ministry in the community

Pentecost 9

Service of Communion

August 11, 2019

10:30 am

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 Verse 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

It is in this place of holiness

that we can come with our fears, our doubts,

and all the questions of our hearts.

We come to this place to hear

God's words of peace, hope, and joy.

It is in this place of holiness

that we can come searching.

We come to this place to find

the One who has been looking for us.

It is in this place of holiness

that we can come knocking.

We come to this place to be embraced

by the One whose heart is always open.

Hymn VU 559 Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Prayer of Confession* (unison)

**Inviting God, your invitation is wide and generous to us
and yet we struggle.**

**We put up barriers and live in fear
rather than live in your spirit of hope and grace.**

**We cling to what we have
rather than share with those in need.**

**When surrounded by despair and disparity,
we find it easier to stay close to those “just like us”
rather than extending that hand of peace or compassion.**

Forgive us, loving God.

**Help us open our eyes to all our sisters and brothers.
Open our ears to the hope you whisper to us.
Open our spirits to Christ’s presence in our midst,
who flings wide open the doors of your kingdom
and calls to us to live in your peace each day.**

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

* © 2016 Thom M. Shuman, adapted.

Words of Assurance

Friends, hear the good news: Christ comes searching for us, calling us by name, and inviting us back into wholeness, over and over and over again. We are loved with a love that will not let us go. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

Hebrews 11:1-3

Luke 12:32-36, 40

Reader: Susie Conrad

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 642 Be Thou My Vision

Message

Rev. Sherri McConnell

Solo “Benedictus” from *Kleine Orgelmesse* by Franz Joseph Haydn
(Given by Sandra Bender)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Prayers of the People

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 VU 236 Now Thank We All Our God Verse 3

**All praise and thanks to God for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Communion

The Invitation

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God...

...So it is that we join the song of all creation to proclaim your goodness:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Mighty and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth...

... we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the great mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts...
... all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.
Amen.

Holy God, hear us now as with one voice we say together the words
Jesus taught his followers to pray:

**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.**

Breaking and Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion (unison)

**We thank you, God, for the gifts you give us:
for the bread of being loved,
for the wine of joy,
and for our life as this community
that seeks to live in faith and hope.
And now that we have been renewed at this table
and strengthened and encouraged by your Spirit,
may we go out into the world,
and be wine and bread to all we meet. Amen.**

Hymn VU 633 Bless Now, O God, the Journey

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response Three-Fold Amen



Organ Postlude

Lectionary Readings *(Gathering, PENTECOST 2019, p 24. Used with permission.)*

Worship materials for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost to the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost were contributed by Bill Steadman, St. Andrew's U.C., Sudbury, Ont.

August 18 – Tenth after Pentecost (Proper 15)

Isaiah 5:1–7

The unfruitful vineyard will be purged.

Psalms 80:1–2, 8–19 (VU pp. 794–795 Part Two)

Care, O God, for the vine you brought from Egypt.

Hebrews 11:29—12:2

The great cloud of witnesses who lived by faith.

Luke 12:49–56

Jesus comes to bring fire and division within households.

To Ponder

What change are you facing right now in your life? What role is your faith playing in that change?