



Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

Celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Lent 4

10:30 am

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND NEWS

INTROIT MV 84, Verse 2 In You There Is a Refuge

In you there is a vision, in you we learn to dream.

When all we see is desert may you be our living stream.

In you there is a future, in you we find our way.

When hope has shed its brightness may you show us a new day.

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CALL TO WORSHIP / APPROACH

Lent is a journey that calls us to move beyond where we are, trusting in God's steadfast love,

This is Lent. This is the journey.

Lent is a journey that can take us further than we have ever been before, moving us from old ways into new,

We are not promised that the path will be easy, but God promises that we are never alone.

Lent is a journey that calls us into new life and new ways of being. This is Lent. This is the journey.

Together we will travel, struggle, and celebrate. Together we will worship.

Amen.

HYMN VU 512 Lord, You Give the Great Commission

LENTEN LITURGY

Readers: the Tuesday Morning Knitting Group:

Maggie Hodson, Susan Hachey, and Nathan Poole

Today is the fourth Sunday of Lent.

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

Today we extinguish our fourth Lenten candle. This candle represents pride and arrogance – pride and arrogance within us; pride and arrogance that exists in our world; and pride and arrogance that blinds us to the needs of others, hurts relationships, and makes us fearful to be vulnerable or ask for help.

(Candle is extinguished)

Trusting that God's love and compassion is stronger than the pride and arrogance, fear, greed and anger in our world, let us pray:

Gracious God, We give thanks that you accept us for who we are, and love us into who we can be. Throughout this Lenten journey, help us remember that even in those shadow places of our lives, your grace and presence is always with us, always holding us close and encouraging us forward. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Sing: MV 85 Take, O take me as I am (*sung twice; please remain seated*)
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

Moment of silence for personal reflection.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE

ANTHEM Flocks in Pastures Green Abiding

J.S. Bach

THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

SCRIPTURE READING

Reader: Katherine Abra

Ephesians 2: 1-10

John 3: 14-21

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN MV 79 Spirit, Open My Heart

MESSAGE

Michelle Owens, principal of the Centre for Christian Studies

SOLO Rise, My Soul, and Stretch thy Wings

Paul S. Jones

Given by Wes Rambo

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 589, Verse 4 Lord, Speak to Me

**O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
Until my very heart o'erflows
in kindling thought and glowing word,
Your love to tell, your praise to show.**

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / 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 504 How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord

COMMISSIONING AND SENDING FORTH

CHORAL RESPONSE VU 642, Verse 5 Be Thou My Vision

**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.**

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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.*

Lectionary Readings – March 18 – Lent 5

Jeremiah 31:31-34 – God will make a new covenant, written on our hearts.

Psalms 51:1-12 (VU pp. 776-777) – “Put a new and right spirit within me.” **OR**

Psalms 119:9-16 (Part Two, VU pp. 838-839) – “I treasure your word in my heart”

Hebrews 5:5-10 – Christ is a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek

John 12:20-33 – “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”

Lent is often practiced as a sacred journey. The following advice is found at the Pilgrims' Museum in Santiago, Galicia, Spain.

Practices for travelers on sacred journeys:

- 1. Practice the arts of attention and listening.**
- 2. Practice renewing yourself every day.**
- 3. Practice meandering toward the centre of every place.**
- 4. Practice the ritual of reading sacred texts.**
- 5. Practice gratitude and praise singing.**

Speaking of Lenten practices, Mission & Service has published a Lenten Gratitude Calendar for use during the season of Lent. Copies of this have been left in the Narthex for anyone interested. The Calendar consists of positive things we can do for each day of Lent. If you want to follow the calendar exactly, start on Day 20, which corresponds to Sunday, March 11. Alternately, feel free to make use of the suggestions as you see fit.