



Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday, April 15, 2018

3rd Sunday of Easter, Baptism and Profession of Faith

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

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

As we gather to worship, we begin with the lighting the Christ Candle, and we remember these words from the gospel of John –

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Welcome and News

Introit VU 315 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty Vs 1

Call to Worship/Approach

The universe is a gift from God.

The planets, the earth and all its creatures.

How good it is, how wonderful,
to welcome the wonders of a new day.

A day filled with potential.

A day where justice and peace are invited to join hands.

A day where we can be still - for a just moment - and remember God is with us.

Open our hearts, O God.

And with our whole being, we welcome the day and sing your praise.

Hymn VU 312 Praise with Joy the World's Creator

Prayer of Reflection/Confession (unison)

Loving God, we look for acceptance and forgiveness from others, and yet can be slow to accept or forgive them ourselves. We can be hesitant to trust, and quick to criticize. We often know kind words to say, but keep them to ourselves instead. We challenge others to bring change, yet are reluctant to get started ourselves. And we are so aware of those times when we have let moments pass, rather than follow the path shown to us by Jesus the Christ, the path of integrity and compassion and hope.....

Moment of silence for personal reflection.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Assurance

Anthem When In Our Music God is Glorified arr. Austin Lovelace

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation *see insert*

Today we welcome **Nicole** and **Steve Berry** who wish to confirm the faith proclaimed in their baptism, and become members of Westminster United Church – and whose second child **Lennon Willow Dawn** is being presented for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

We also welcome big sister **Eire**, and godparents

Kara-Lynn Sorenson and David Perrault.

Scripture Reading: Lynn E. Soens

Luke 24: 36-48

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

Thanks be to God.

Hymn MV 161 I Have Called You by Your Name

Message

Solo To God be the Glory by William H Doane arr. Diane Bish
given by Nicki Kirton

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.

Offering Doxology MV 42 Praise God for This Holy Ground Vs 1

**Praise God for this holy ground,
place and people, sight and sound.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal.**

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Prayer of Dedication

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**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 333 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response MV 214 May God's Sheltering Wings Vs 1

**May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love, and hold you in her love.**

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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 – April 22 – Fourth Sunday of Easter and Earth Day

Worship materials for the Second Sunday of Easter to the Fifth Sunday of Easter were contributed by Geoffrey Wilfong-Pritchard, St. Andrew's U.C., Edmonton, Alta.

Acts 4:5–12 - Peter testifies before the high priests.

Psalm 23 (VU pp. 747–749) - God is my shepherd.

1 John 3:16–24 - Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

John 10:11–18 - Jesus is the good shepherd.

To Ponder

What makes a good guide?