



BELL TOWER

— *Community Café* —

MAKING GOOD THINGS TOGETHER

Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

*Over 125 years of ministry in the community –
Moving forward in a tradition of service*

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Lent 3

With special presentation from Bell Tower Community Café

10:30 am

During Lent there will be tea lights available on the platform at the front of the sanctuary. Prior to worship, as you come into the sanctuary (and until the service starts) you are invited to light a tea light if you wish, in silence, as a personal remembrance, prayer, blessing, joy or acknowledgement/honouring during this Lenten time.

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

Prelude

Welcome and News

Centering Music

Call to Worship

We come to this holy place

feeling weary, thirsty for the living water that can refresh souls

We come to this holy place

feeling broken, bruised - ready for God's healing presence in our lives

We come to this holy place

as followers of Jesus, seeking to hear God's message of compassion and hope.

Come, let us worship God.

Hymn VU 421 Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

Lenten Liturgy Rebecca McIntosh and Carol Latter

(Four Candles are lit to represent the four remaining Sundays in Lent)

Today is the third Sunday of Lent.

Lent is a time of spiritual reflection and spiritual practice. It is a time when we reflect on those things that may keep us from following God's path of love and peace with one another and our world.

Today we extinguish our third Lenten candle.

This candle represents Fear – fear within us; fear that exists in our world; fear that drowns our hope, limits our imaginations, and closes our hearts to those we think of as “the other” in our world.

(Candle is extinguished)

As we move through our Lenten journey, may we remember that God's love and compassion are stronger than fear, greed and anger, and can transform our lives.

Let us pray:

Holy One, you accept us for who we are and love us into who we can be. As we journey through this season of Lent, help us remember that your grace and

presence is always with us - even in those shadow places of our lives. May our hearts reflect your loving kindness, and may our lives be channels of your peace. Amen.

Sing: "Take, O Take Me as I Am" (MV 85) *sung twice*

**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

Around the well of your grace, O God,

are those who thirst for friendship and love;

Help our lives reflect your living waters of community and connection - even when we feel undeserving;

Around the well of your life, O God,

are those who thirst for joy and safety;

Help our lives reflect your living waters of playfulness and protection - even when we feel too tired or too busy;

Around the well of your mercy, O God,

are those who thirst for wholeness and peace;

Help our lives reflect your living waters of comfort, healing and welcome - even when it feels challenging;

Around the well of your presence, O God,

are those who thirst for meaning and connection;

Help our lives reflect your living waters of compassion, service and worship - even when we feel unsure....

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance

Anthem A Prayer of King Henry VI by Henry G. Ley

*Lord Jesus Christ, who created,
and redeemed me to be this that I am,
you know what you wish to do with me;
do with me in accordance
With your will, with mercy.
Amen.*

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(for the next while, we will not be shaking hands during the passing the peace; folks are invited to share the peace in other respectful ways – by simply sharing the words of peace, or with a nod and smile, or by bowing to one another with hands in prayer pose, etc)

*Following the passing of the peace, the younger crowd is welcome to join Katelyn for **Sunday School** in the Chapel for a time of activity, story, and conversation.*

Scripture Reading: Lynn E. Soens

Exodus 17: 1-7

John 4: 5-42

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

Thanks be to God.

Hymn MV 12 Come Touch Our Hearts

Message

*Special Guest, Meaghan Pauls
Coordinator, Bell Tower Community Café*

Solo O Love That Will Not Let Me Go arranged Paul S. Jones
given by Rebecca McIntosh

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.

Doxology MV 191 **What Can I Do? (With repeat)**

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

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Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (unison)

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, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 449

Crashing Waters at Creation

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Close VU 108 **Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights vs 1**

Throughout these Lenten days and nights

we turn to walk the inward way,

where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,

we live in hope till Easter Day.

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Organ Postlude

(For the next while, we will also not be shaking hands at the door after the service is done; folks are invited to simply share words of greeting, smile and nod, offer elbow or foot “bumps”, bowing to one another with hands in prayer pose, etc. Even if we are not worried about our own immune systems, or about contracting anything ourselves, it is important to make sure our church is a healthy place for everyone who comes through our doors.)

Lectionary Readings

March 22 – Lent 4

1 Samuel 16:1–13

Psalm 23 (VU pp. 747–749)

Ephesians 5:8–14

John 9:1–41

March 29 – Lent 5

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Psalm 130 (VU pp. 852–853)

Romans 8:6–11

John 11:1–45

April 5 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21:1–11

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 (VU p. 837)

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Psalm 31:9–16 (VU p. 758)

Philippians 2:5–11

Matthew 26:14–27:66

or Matthew 27:11–54