



# Sunday Worship

**Westminster Church**

The United Church of Canada

*Celebrating over 125 years of  
ministry in the community*

**Sunday, Sept 15, 2019**

**Sacrament of Baptism**

**Profession of Faith**

**10:30 am**

**Prelude**

**Christ Candle is lit**

**Welcome and News**

**Introit** MV 1      *Let Us Build a House*    *verse 1*

**Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,**

**a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.**

**Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;**

**here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

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

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## **CALL TO WORSHIP\***

Come and rejoice and give thanks to God!

**Let us join our hearts and voices in praise and thanksgiving.**

For we are all truly loved by God

**just as we are,**

**for who we are,**

**thanks be to God!**

**Hymn** VU 327      *All Praise to Thee*    *verses 1,2,4,5*

## **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Open our hearts and unclutter our lives, loving God - when we  
have too much, consume too much, expect too much. Grant us  
perspective to see this world through the eyes of others and not  
just through our own. Grant us compassion to see where there is  
need. Grant us courage to play our part and not just turn aside.  
Grant us gratitude for our daily bread and for the blessings of our**

**lives. Unclutter our lives, loving God; give us space, simplicity and thankful hearts...**

***Moment of silence for personal confession.***

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

### **Words of Assurance**

Friends, hear the good news: Christ comes searching for us, calling us by name, and inviting us back into wholeness ....all we must do is our turn our hearts to God. Thanks be to God, Amen.

### **The Anthem**

He is My Joy

by John Carter

### **The Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **The Sacrament of Baptism**

*Mark Thomas Walker*

## **THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM AND PROFESSION OF FAITH**

### **THE PRESENTATION**

Liz Witjkamp, a representative of the church, will introduce the candidate for baptism.

*Liz: On behalf of the congregation of Westminster United Church, I present Mark Thomas Walker for initiation into the body of Christ through profession of faith and baptism.*

## **THE TEACHING** “The Sacrament of Baptism”

*The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.*

*By water and the Spirit, we are called, claimed and commissioned: we are called God's own, welcomed as children of God; we are claimed by Christ, united with Christ, with one another and the Christian community of every time and place; we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace and justice, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the world.*

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES**

Mark, I ask you these questions so you may publically profess your faith.

Do you believe in God, Source of love;  
in Jesus Christ, love incarnate;  
and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?

*Candidate responds:*

**I DO, BY THE GRACE OF GOD.**

Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

*Candidate responds:*

**I WILL, GOD BEING MY HELPER.**

Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ and join with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

*Candidate responds:*

**I WILL, GOD BEING MY HELPER.**

**CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT** *(stand as you are able)*

Let us pledge to Mark our support and care:

**MARK, AS A BAPTIZED AND BAPTIZING PEOPLE, WE COMMIT OURSELVES  
TO SUPPORT AND UPHOLD YOU WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH.**

May God grant us all the grace to live our baptism.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, A NEW CREED (VU 918)**

**We are not alone; we live in God's world.  
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND POURING OF WATER**

Gracious and Holy God,  
we bless you for the gift of life, and within it, the gift of water.  
Over its unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at Creation.  
By water, comes the growth of the earth.

Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom.  
In the waters of the Jordan, your Child Jesus was baptized.  
Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do,  
that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.

## **THE ACT OF BAPTISM AND LAYING ON OF HANDS**

## **PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE AND SIGNING OF HISTORIC ROLL**

### **THE BLESSING** *(VU 965, sung by all)*

**The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:  
the Lord make his face shine upon thee,  
and be gracious unto thee:  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee,  
and give thee peace. Amen.**

*\*Following the Baptism, the younger crowd is welcome to join Katelyn at the Children's Table in the Narthex for a time of activity, story and conversation.*

### **Scripture Readings:**

Jeremiah 4: 11-12; 22-28

Luke 15: 1-10

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn MV 20      God of Still Waiting**

**Message**

**Solo**                    This We Pray  
given by Rebecca McIntosh

by Jay Althouse

### **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 (unison)**

**Holy god, accept these gifts  
and the gifts that are our lives,  
and with these gifts, may we and this church be signs of your love  
in the world.  
Amen**

### **The Prayers of the People**

#### **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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 681      Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

### Commissioning and Sending Forth

### Choral Response Three-Fold Amen



A musical staff in G major (one sharp) showing the melody for a three-fold Amen. The notes are: A (quarter), - (quarter), men, (quarter), a (quarter), - (quarter), men, (quarter), a (quarter), - (quarter), - (quarter), - (quarter), men. (quarter). The final 'men.' is a half note. A slur covers the final 'a - - - men.'.

### Organ Postlude

*\*written by Dianne Young. Gathering, Pentecost 2 2019, page 35. Used with permission (adapted)*



**Lectionary Readings** (Gathering, PENTECOST 2 2019, p 7. Used with permission.)

*Worship materials for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost to the World Communion Sunday were contributed by Vicki McPhee, Symons Valley U.C., Calgary, Alta.*

**September 22 – Fifteenth after Pentecost**

**Creation Time 3 in the Season of Pentecost** - Proper 20

**Jeremiah 8:18—9:1**

Is there no balm in Gilead? No physician there?

**Psalms 79:1–9** (VU p. 793)

We are mocked by our neighbours.

**1 Timothy 2:1–7**

Offer prayers for those in high positions.

**Luke 16:1–13**

The parable of the dishonest manager.

**To Ponder**

What is your relationship with money?