



Sunday Worship

Westminster Church

The United Church of Canada

Celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday, September 16, 2018

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Organ prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

Welcome and news

Introit MV 28 God of the Bible

**God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
Hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
You are our centre, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.**

Refrain *Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.*

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Call to Worship/Approach

Here we come to experience the presence of God
Here we seek to be inspired for the week ahead.
Here we enter to look for ways to be transformed by the Spirit
Here we gather:
**To sense the mystery of a Holy presence
To hear Wisdom's voice
To seek meaning and substance
Yearning for welcome and purpose
to belong and to become.**
Let us worship.

Hymn VU 232 Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

Prayer of Confession

The simplest word – something so easy to say and so quickly forgotten – can leave a legacy of pain, or a long-lingering joy.
How often do we fill the air with our words, oblivious, or simply dismissive, of their impact. How often are we unaware, or uncaring of the lives changed, for

better or worse, by our careless chatter. Word of God, teach us the wisdom of careful speech, the power of blessing, the healing of forgiving, the gift of truth-telling; give us the courage to speak out and to do our part in filling the world with words of life and hope.....

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance

Anthem This is the Day the Lord has Made by Mark Hayes

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Time – *Katelyn McIntyre, Children's Table Coordinator*

Scripture Readings Annette Kletke

Proverbs 1: 20-33

Mark 8: 27-38

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

Thanks be to God.

Message *.....Who do they say that I am?....*

Hymn MV 30 Its a Song of Praise to the Maker

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 MV 36 Glory to God

One: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

All: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

One: To God be glory forever!

All: To God be glory forever!

One: Alleluya, amen!

All: Alleluya, amen! x 4

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Prayer of Dedication* (unison)

Gracious God, we offer our gifts

from the work of our hands to the work of your church,

for the encouragement of all people,

and with the love of Christ in our hearts.

Bless our offerings, and our living, we pray in Christ's name. Amen

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, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 268 Bring Many Names

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response VU 623 Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design

Let eyes that in the plainest cloth
a hidden beauty see
discern in us our richest hues,
show us the patterns we may use
to set our spirits free,
to set our sprits free.

Words: Nancy C. Dorian Words copyright 1992 Unitarian Universalist Association.

Organ Postlude

If departing before the end of the postlude, please do so quietly for the benefit of those remaining to enjoy the music.

* *Written by John van de Laar; found on www.sacredise.com*

Lectionary Readings: September 23 – Eighteenth after Pentecost

Creation Time 3 in the Season of Pentecost - Proper 20

Proverbs 31:10–31 - A tribute to a capable woman.

Psalm 1 (VU p. 724) - Blessed are those who follow God's law.

James 3:13—4:3, 7–8a - Wisdom from above is gentle and peaceable.

Mark 9:30–37 - **Whoever welcomes a child, welcomes me.**

To Ponder

Ched Myers uses the inclusive translation "The Human One" instead of "The Son of Man" in his book *Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus* (Orbis Books, 2008). How might that translation change your understanding of the story of Jesus told in this gospel?