



# Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

*celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community*

Sunday December 17, 2017

Advent 3

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

**Carol sing** - 10:15 to 10:30

**Christ Candle is lit**

**Welcome and News**

**Introit** MV 1 Let Us Build a House vs. 5

**Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words with-in the Word.**

**Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:**

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

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## **Call to Worship**

In this season of watching and waiting,

**We gather to sing, to pray, to connect**

In this season of expectation

**We gather to reflect, to share, to listen**

In this Advent season we wait for the Holy Child

**Come, let us worship God.**

**Hymn** VU 61            Of the Father's Love Begotten

**Community Connection** – Share a moment of joy from your week.

**Advent Video** – Joy\*

Advent Candle Lighting

(Joëlle Livingstone Piché, Gabriel Piché, Vincent Piché, Camille Piché)

In a distressing and despairing world,

**we are called to share God's joy.**

This is a joy that cannot be purchased or packaged.

**This is a joy that is rooted in hope and courage.**

May God grant us the courage to live this joy, and share it with others...

(Light the 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle)

Let us pray:

**Holy God, as we move even closer to Bethlehem, may your gifts of hope, peace, and joy inspire our lives and bring light to our world.**

## Sung Response

# Advent Carol

words by  
NATHAN POOLE  
BRANDON JOHNSTON

music by RICHARD SORIS WILLIS 1850

We wait in love\_ this Ad - vent day, The can - dle is bur - ning bright, \_ Our  
love shines bright to show the way The way of truth and light. \_\_\_\_ We  
live in love\_ that we might be God's voice to all\_ that hear: \_\_\_\_ Good  
News of love\_ for all who see God's work through all\_ the year. \_\_\_\_

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## Prayer of Confession\*\*

Holy One,

As we witness to fear, in the news and in our streets,  
it is easy to become cynical and uncertain

**Help us make space for hope in our lives.**

In this season of *getting* and *giving*, *shopping* and *merry-making*, we often become more attentive to the pain and despair in the world around us, and we try to help out as we can – yet the rest of the year, the pain and despair of our world is so easy to ignore or avoid.....

**Help us make gestures of peace with each other, and space for peace in our own living all year long.**

As we greet strangers, neighbours, and friends,

**Help us make a place for joy in the midst of our concerns**

Awaiting a future announced and promised,

**Help us make room for love to be born in our hearts, and homes.....**

*Moment of silence for personal reflection.*

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

### **Assurance**

God's grace abounds and we are held in God's embrace. We are renewed and inspired to live in our world and in our lives with hope, peace, joy and love.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**      My Soul Cries Out

arr. Mark Hayes

### **The Peace**

May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Scripture Reading:** Judy Hill

Isaiah 61: 1-4; 8-11

Luke 1: 47-55

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** VU 74

What Child Is This

## Message

**Solo** O Rest in the Lord by F. Mendelssohn from ELIJAH  
given by Nick Urquhart

**Minute for Mission** New Beginnings after Civil War - John Grivell

## Collection of Offerings and Offertory

*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** MV 18 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,**

**pure and holy tried and true;**

**with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

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## Offering Doxology

### Prayer of Dedication

### Prayers of the People and the 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.**

## Commissioning and Sending Forth

### Choral Response VU 18      There's a Voice in the Wilderness

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying,**

**a call from the ways untrod:**

**Prepare in the desert a highway,**

**a highway for our God!**

**The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;**

**make straight all the crooked places where God,**

**our God, may go!**

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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.*

*\*United Church of Canada/Advent Unwrapped/2015*

*\*\* An Advent Prayer of Confession and Healing (adapted) <http://www.adventunwrapped.ca/2017>*

### **Lectionary Readings - December 24 – Advent 4**

**2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16** - Who will build God's house?

**Luke 1:47–55** (VU pp. 898–899) - Song of Mary.

or **Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26** (VU p. 804) - I will sing of God's steadfast love.

**Romans 16:25–27** - Glory to the only wise God through Jesus Christ.

**Luke 1:26–38** - The angel Gabriel visits Mary.

### **To Ponder**

Why me? Why do I bear this story, as Mary carried the Word?