



Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

The United Church of Canada

Celebrating over 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday, March 17, 2019

St. Patrick's Day

Lent 2

10:30 am

Our service begins with the Prelude, inviting us to prepare for worship.

Organ Prelude

Welcome and News

Centering Music

Call to Worship

As we gather at this hour, we place heaven with all its power

And the sun with its brightness and the snow with its whiteness

And fire with all the strength it hath

and lightning with its rapid wrath

And the winds with their swiftness along the path

And the sea with its deepness and the rocks with their steepness

and the earth with its stillness

All these we place by God's almighty help and grace

All these we bind unto ourselves.

Christ be with us, Christ within us

Christ behind us, Christ before us

Christ beside us, Christ to win us

Christ to comfort and restore us

Christ beneath us, Christ above us

Christ in quiet, Christ in danger

Christ in hearts of all the meet us, friend and stranger.

(adapted from St Patrick's Breastplate)

Hymn VU 220 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lenten Liturgy – Lynn E. Soens

(five candles are lit before the service)

Today is the second Sunday of Lent.

Lent is a time of reflection, when we take time to reflect on those things that keep us from following God's path of loving and caring for one another, and the world.

Today we extinguish our second Lenten candle. This candle represents greed – greed within us; greed that exists in our world; greed that

fosters dissatisfaction, and dismisses kindness, generosity and caring for others.

(Candle is extinguished)

As we move through our Lenten journey, may we remember that God's love and compassion is stronger than the greed and anger in our world. Let us pray:

Holy God, you accept us for who we are, and love us into who we can be. As we walk through this time of Lent, help us remember that your grace and presence is always with us - even in those shadow places of our lives. Help us reflect your love in our hearts and our living. In Jesus' name we pray, 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.**

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**To others I am always honest;
myself I sometimes deceive.**

**To others I say what I believe to be true,;
Myself I can make believe a lie.**

**To others my smile is intended to be sincere
Myself I can fool into hiding my anger.**

**To others I always wish to do good;
Myself I can deny my worse motives**

God, let me be as honest with myself as I am with others

(early Irish)

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance

God enfolds and surrounds us

God is in our speaking and in our thinking

God is in our sleeping and waking

In our watching and hoping.

God is in our life and lips and soul and heart.

In God's ever expansive mercy, be assured of your pardon.

(adapted from Camina Gadelica)

Anthem

Down to the River to Pray

arr. by Mary McDonald

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*Following the passing of the peace, the younger crowd is welcome to join Katelyn at the **Children's Table** in the Narthex for a time of activity, story, conversation and sometimes even music.*

Scripture Readings: John Grivell

Luke 13:31-35

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

Thanks be to God.

Message

Hymn MV 49 When We Seek Language

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.*

Offertory

Offering Doxology VU 541 Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow
(public domain)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.
Prayer of Dedication**

The Prayers of the People

Hymn VU 642 Be Thou my Vision

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response VU 964 Go Now in Peace (sung twice) –
**Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere, you 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.*

March 24 – Lent 3

Worship materials for Lent 3 were contributed by Geoffrey Wilfong-Pritchard, St. Andrew's U.C., Edmonton, Alta.

Isaiah 55:1–9 - Come, buy wine and milk without money!

Psalms 63:1–8 (VU p. 781) - I long for you, O God.

1 Corinthians 10:1–13 - God will not let you be tested beyond your strength.

Luke 13:1–9 - The parable of the barren fig tree.

To Ponder - What are you waiting for, deep down?

