



**Shrove Tuesday, 2018**



# Sunday Worship

**Westminster United Church**  
*celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community*  
**Sunday, February 18, 2018**

**Lent 1**  
**Baptism**  
**10:30 am**

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

**Prelude**

**Christ Candle is lit**

**Welcome and News**

**Introit** In You There Is a Refuge MV 84 Verse 2

**In you there is a vision, in you we learn to dream.**

**When all we see is desert may you be our living stream.**

**In you there is a future, in you we find our way.**

**When hope has shed its brightness may you show us a new day.**

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## **CALL TO WORSHIP\***

As this season of Lent begins, God of the ages, we come seeking strength and guidance for our journey.

**Lent is a time of seeking change.**

Give the courage to look at the things we need to examine.

**Give us the hope that we can change.**

In our worship together, open us to your vision of a new way.

**Amen**

**Hymn** VU 296 This is God's Wondrous World

## **Lenten Liturgy** – Don and Rita Menzies

Today is the first Sunday of Lent.

Lent is a time of reflection, when we reflect on those things that block us from following God's path of love and care for one another, and love and care for the world.

Today we extinguish our first Lenten candle. This candle represents anger – anger within us, anger that exists in our world, anger that can lead to hatred and violence.

*(Candle is extinguished)*

Trusting that God's love and compassion is stronger than the anger in our world, let us pray together:

**Gracious God, We give thanks that you accept us for who we are, and love us into who we can be. Throughout this Lenten journey, help us remember that even in those shadow places of our lives, your grace**

and presence is always with us, always holding us close and nudging us forward. 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)**

**Holy God, as we begin this journey of Lent, help us look in our hearts and be honest with ourselves. For those times we have followed the path of deception, help us change our direction. For those times we have not taken the feelings of others into account, give us sensitivity. For those times when we have hung back from working for the common good or standing with the powerless, grant us courage. For those times we have ignored or neglected those spiritual practises that help us draw closer to you, renew our purpose and strengthen our intention.....**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Words of Assurance**

**The Anthem** Consecrated, Lord, to Thee

by Lloyd Larson

**The Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# **Sacrament of Baptism**

Vann Frederick William Gerrits

*Son of Chantel Lenore Gerrits (Lambo) and Trevor Clark Gerrits*

*Brother of Dane Thomas Jeffery*

*Godparents: Fay Kelman and Rick Prokop*

## **THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM**

### **THE PRESENTATION**

A representative of the church will call forward those to be baptized; with parents, godparents.

### **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**

Do you believe in God, Source of love;

in Jesus Christ, love incarnate;

and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?

*Parents/Godparents Respond:*

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

Will you share your faith with your child, growing with him/her in faith, hope and love, encouraging him/her by your words and actions in the way of Jesus Christ?

*Parents/Godparents Respond:*

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

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

Let us pledge to these persons our support and care:

**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**

**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**

### **PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE**

**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.**



**Scripture Readings:** Carol Harvey

**Genesis 9: 8-17**

**Mark 1: 9-15**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn VU 444**      Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

## **Meditation**

**Solo**      I Worship You, Almighty God  
given by Nick Urquhart

words / music by Sandra Corbett

**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** Lord, Speak to Me VU 589 Verse 4

**O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
Until my very heart o'erflows  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
Your love to tell, your praise to show.**

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**Offering Doxology**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**The Prayers of the People**

**Hymn** VU 623 Dear Weaver of our Lives' Design

**Commissioning and Sending Forth**

**Choral Response** Be Thou My Vision VU 642 Verse 5

**Great God of heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

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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.*

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**Lectionary Readings - February 25 – Lent 2**

**Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16**

The covenant between Abram, Sarai, and God.

**Psalms 22:23–31 (VU p. 746 Parts Three and Four)**

You have not hidden your face, O God.

**Romans 4:13–25**

God's promise rests on grace and faith.

**Mark 8:31–38**

Those who lose their life for the gospel will save it.

**To Ponder**

When have you known God's blessing in your life? Consider times of transition and transformation that came about in faith and grace. How do you recognize and receive God's invitation to blessedness and to trust? And how is your faithfulness called forth in action in mission and ministry?

*Written by: Kate Gregory, Belwood-Metz P.C., Belwood, Ont., and Lynn Hamilton, Eramosa P.C., Rockwood, Ont. Gathering, L/E 2018, page 6,7. Used with permission.*