



# Sunday Worship

**Westminster United Church**

*Celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community*

**Sunday, March 18, 2018**

**Lent 5**

**10:30 am**

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND NEWS

INTROIT      MV 84, Verse 2      In You There Is a Refuge

**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.**

Words: Keri K. Wehlander © 2005 Keri K. Wehlander [www.creativeworship.ca](http://www.creativeworship.ca); Music: Linnea Good © 2005 Borealis Music, [www.linneagood.com](http://www.linneagood.com). All rights reserved. Reprinted under [OneLicense.net](http://OneLicense.net) #A-720863

## CALL TO WORSHIP\*

This is the day of the new covenant – the day God has promised,

**We are here, with hearts open to God's love and call;**

No longer carved on cold stone, this covenant is engraved on our hearts,  
**so God's Word can shape our lives.**

We will reach out to our neighbors, our friends and family, even to strangers,  
**Our hearts are ready to serve God and all of God's people.**

HYMN    VU 584            Through the Heart of Every City

LENTEN LITURGY

Readers: Parker Smith and Gunner Smith

(two candles are lit before the service)

Today is the fifth Sunday of Lent.

Lent is a time of reflection, when we think about those things that block us from following God's path of loving and caring for one another, and for the world.

Today we extinguish our fifth Lenten candle. This candle represents envy – envy within us, envy that exists in our world, envy that limits our capacity for gratitude, open-heartedness and generosity of spirit.

*(Candle is extinguished)*

Trusting that God's love and compassion is stronger than the envy, pride and arrogance, fear, greed and anger in our world, let us pray:

**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, holding us close and encouraging us into new ways of being and living. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

**Sing:** MV 85 Take, O Take Me As I Am (*sung twice; please remain seated*)  
**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)

**Oh Holy One, we yearn for your presence in our lives, yet turn away from you time and again. We want to serve others, but become obsessed with our own desires. We yearn for your Word to fill our emptiness, yet let it be silenced by the noise of our world. Our hearts are so often clogged with the foolishness of our lives, and struggle to beat in rhythm with your own.**

**In this silence, and in the depths of our hidden souls, be with us and make us whole, Steadfast Love. Write *grace* upon our hearts, so we might be more forgiving people; write *mercy* on our hearts, so we might become more welcoming people; write *hospitality* upon our hearts that we might become more like Jesus Christ, the one who came for all people, even us....**

*Moment of silence for personal reflection.*

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

ASSURANCE\*\*

A new heart, a generous spirit, a fresh start: these are the gifts our God gives to us.

**Through Christ, our lives are healed; through Christ, our lives are transformed; through Christ, new life is possible. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

ANTHEM Ubi Caritas  
*See Nathan's notes next page*

by Ola Gjeilo

## Nathan's Notes

Today's anthem is an ancient one- the original tune could date to the 4th century, but the text could be much older, possibly coming from the earliest Christian gatherings.

Ola Gjeilo is a Norwegian composer, and has found a niche in modern choral writing. This is one of his earliest pieces- while it may sound ancient in certain sections, the soaring lines and rich harmonies are very fresh.

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| <i>Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.</i>    | Where charity and love are, God is there.        |
| <i>Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.</i> | Christ's love has gathered us into one.          |
| <i>Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.</i>     | Let us rejoice and be pleased in God.            |
| <i>Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.</i>       | Let us fear, and let us love the living God.     |
| <i>Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.</i>    | And may we love each other with a sincere heart. |

## THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Reader: John Grivell

**Jeremiah 31: 31-34**

**John 12: 20-26**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

HYMN MV 176 Three Things I Promise

## MESSAGE

SOLO The Lord's My Shepherd  
given by Nick Urquhart

by Bob Chilcot

MISSION IN SERVICE 'Thank You from Green Bay'

John Grivell

**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 589, Verse 4      Lord, Speak to Me  
**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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## PRAYER OF DEDICATION\*\*\*

As you write upon our hearts,  
**soften them with your compassion, and open us to the needs of those close to us, as well as those in every corner of your world.**

As you open us to the hurts and heartaches of all your people,  
**give us the grace to be as generous with our gifts as you are in blessing us.**

Accept these gifts we pray

**and use them to share peace, love, grace, and joy with all of your people.**

In Jesus' name, we pray,

**Amen.**

## THE 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, the power, and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN      As a Fire is Meant for Burning      (*see next page*)  
(tune BEACH SPRING)

## COMMISSIONING AND SENDING FORTH

CHORAL RESPONSE VU 642, Verse 5 Be Thou My Vision

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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## As a Fire is Meant for Burning

RUTH DUCK

SACRED HEART



1. As a fire is meant for bur - ning with a bright and war - ming  
2. We are lear - ners; we are tea - chers; we are pil - grims on the  
3. As a green bud in the spring - time is the sign of life re -



flame, so the church is meant for mis - sion, gi - ving glo - ry to God's  
way. We are see - kers; we are gi - vers; we are ves - sels made of  
newed, so may we be signs of one - ness 'mid earth's peo - ples, ma - ny



name. Not to preach our creeds or cus - toms, but to build a bridge of  
clay. By our gen - tle, lo - ving ac - tions, we would show that Christ is  
hued. As a rain - bow lights the hea - vens when a storm is past and



care, we join hands a - cross the na - tions, fin - ding neigh - bours ev - ery where.  
light. In a hum - ble, lis - tening Spi - rit, we would live to God's de - light.  
gone, may our lives re - flect the ra - diance of God's new and glo - rious dawn.

## **Lectionary Readings – March 25 – Palm/Passion Sunday**

*Worship materials for Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday were contributed by Kathleen James-Cavan, Knox U.C., Langham, Sask.*

### **Liturgy of the Palms**

**Mark 11:1–11 or John 12:12–16** - Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem.

**Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29** (VU p. 837 Parts 1, 3, 4) - The stone which the builders rejected.

### **Liturgy of the Passion**

**Isaiah 50:4–9a** - The servant, "I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks."

**Psalm 31:9–16** (VU p. 758 Parts Two and Three) - My times are in your hands, O God.

**Philippians 2:5–11** - Let the same mind be in you as was in Christ Jesus.

**Mark 14:1—15:47** - The narrative of Jesus' final hours.

**To Ponder - What, in Jesus, are you welcoming today?**