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Sunday Worship

Westminster Church

The United Church of Canada

Sunday, May 19, 2019

“What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” Acts 11:9

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

** indicates invitation to stand, as you are able.*

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

Organ Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

Welcome and News

Introit MV 28 God of the Bible Verse 1, plus refrain

**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. (2x)

Call to Worship

In the midst of grief we choose to celebrate because it reminds us of hope, and brings comfort to our broken hearts.

In the midst of poverty we choose to celebrate because it speaks of wealth beyond material things, and gives dignity to our humbled hearts.

In the midst of conflict with those who are different we choose to celebrate because it turns us to peace and restores humanity to our angry hearts.

In the midst of suffering we choose to celebrate because it lightens our darkness, and inspires strength in our fragile hearts.

In the midst of injustice we choose to celebrate because it defies evil, and renews determination in our compassionate hearts.

**Though crosses may loom, and opponents gather,
though cynics may scoff at our devotion, we still choose to embrace
and enjoy the healing power of celebration.**

Hymn VU 271 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Prayer of Confession Loving God, your Son calls us to love one another just as He loves us.

He tells us the world will know we are His followers because of the love we have for one another.

Yet we confess we have not always loved one another, not the way Christ loves us.

Too often the world knows us for our squabbling, our hypocrisy, and even our hatred of one another.

Loving God, forgive us.

Lord Jesus, continue to love us.

Holy Spirit, fill us with love, so that we love one another with same love we know in Your embrace.

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Anthem "Consecrated, Lord to Thee "by Lloyd Larson

Children's Time 'Beauty and Goodness in all of us.'

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

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.*

Words Of Assurance

From birth to rebirth, God writes new beginnings.

God offers grace upon grace. In Jesus Christ, God shows and tells an endless love that inspires green shoots of new life.

God has given us repentance that leads to life. Let us accept God's forgiveness, forgive ourselves, and forgive one another.

Scripture Reading Susie Conrad

Acts 11:1-18

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 376 Spirit of the Living God

Message A Deal Breaker! Rev. Don McIntyre

Solo "Let the Bright Seraphim" from Samson by G.F. Handel
given by Jennifer Turner

Minute for Mission Community Bridge John Grivell

Collection of Offerings

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.

Offertory The season of Easter unfolds while the gifts of spring also remind of God's generosity in Christ and in Creation. As we present our gifts this morning, may our generosity reflect God's goodness to us and the hope for new life we have in Christ Jesus.

Offering Doxology MV 154 Deep in Our Hearts

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**

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Prayer of Dedication - Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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 288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Commissioning and Sending Forth

**We go forth to live resurrection:
In the name of the God who makes us,
In the name of the Christ who makes us free,
In the name of the Spirit that makes us one.**

Choral Response You Shall Go Out with Joy x2

**You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands!**

**And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap, clap*)
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap, clap*)
the trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap, clap*)
while you go out with joy.**

Organ Postlude

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

Lectionary Reading

May 26 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Worship materials for the Fifth Sunday of Easter to the Seventh Sunday of Easter were contributed by Catherine Tovell, Kilworth U.C., Komoka, Ont.

Acts 16:9–15 - Paul worships with Lydia and the women by the river.

Psalm 67 (VU p. 786) - Let the light of God's face shine upon us.

Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5 - John's vision of the city of God.

John 14:23–29 - The Holy Spirit will come to teach.

or **John 5:1–9** - A sick man cured at the pool of Bethesda.

To Ponder - What is the cost of healing? What is the payoff for remaining sick, confined, distressed, complacent?