

WE MAKE A
LIVING BY
WHAT WE GET,
BUT WE MAKE A
LIFE BY
WHAT WE GIVE.

~WINSTON CHURCHILL

Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday Nov. 19, 2017

Stewardship Sunday

24th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Prelude

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 morning sunlight and fall cloud cover
In the first snowfalls and winter chills,
in seasons of change and courage
God is in our midst.

In horizons colored with the setting sun,
and the sounds of honking geese leaving for warmer climes
God is in our midst.

In the faces of families, and singles, friends and strangers,
the hurrying and the day dreaming
God is in our midst.

In life touching other life, moments of kindness,
sharing of joys, weeping with grief, caring for others
God is in our midst.

In our worship, the gift of community
In music, prayer, story and Word
God is in our midst.

With joy, with hope, with thanksgiving, let us worship.

Prayer of Approach

Prayer of Confession

One: Holy One, we confess that we often live in short-sighted ways - “playing it safe” with the gifts we have been given, putting blinders on to all the privilege we enjoy, choosing to focus on all we *don’t* have.

ALL: We live in fear - rather than in God’s ways and trusting the spirit of God’s love that surrounds and sustains us.

Often we neglect to consider how our decisions impact the lives of others; often we neglect to ask questions for fear of the answers we may receive or learn.

ALL: We live in fear - rather than in God’s ways and trusting the spirit of God’s love that surrounds and sustains us.

As the church, we often use the “bottom line” as the only basis for decision-making, and feel unable to step out of what “is” to follow your call to *what may yet be*.

ALL: We live in fear - rather than in God’s ways and trusting the spirit of God’s love that surrounds and sustains us.

Often when we witness wrongdoing, heartlessness or injustice, we remain silent and cautious, unwilling or unable to take a stand or make our challenges and concerns known.

ALL: We live in fear - rather than in God’s ways and trusting the spirit of God’s love that surrounds and sustains us.

Strengthen us gracious God that we may live in love not fear.

Moment of silence for personal reflection.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE

Anthem This is the Day arr. Mark Hayes

Gratitude Moment – The 125th Anniversary Committee – Loretta Basiuk, Rita Menzies, Helen LaRue, Carol Latter, Ted Barnett, Sherri McConnell, Roy Halstead, Charles Huband, Nathan Poole

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Scripture Reading: Shannon MacFarlane

Matthew 25: 14-30

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

Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 584 Through the Heart of Every City

Message

Solo He's Been Faithful by Carol Cymbala
given by Nicki Kirton

Gratitude Moment - Katherine Abra

Minute for Mission – UCW Works to End Child Poverty - 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 MV 42 Praise God for this Holy Ground Vs 1
Praise God for this holy ground,
place and people, sight and sound.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal.

Prayer of Dedication

The 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.

Hymn MV 212 Sent Out in Jesus' Name

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response VU 639 One More Step

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

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 Readings for Sunday, November 26 – from Gathering

November 26 – Reign of Christ Sunday - Proper 29

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 - God searches for the sheep; judges between the fat and the lean.

Psalm 100 (VU pp. 820–824) - Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Ephesians 1:15–23 - May God give you a spirit of wisdom, revelation, and hope.

Matthew 25:31–46 - When you helped the least of these, you helped me.

To Ponder

When have you helped “the least of these”? When have you found yourself to be “the least of these”? Do you find it easier be the giver or the receiver? Why?