



Don and Val McIntyre. Valerie McIntyre received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

Sunday Worship

Westminster Church

The United Church of Canada

Sunday, April 22, 2018

celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Fourth Sunday of Easter

“He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know.
One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” John 9:25

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

Organ prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

Welcome and news

Introit VU 315 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty Vs 1
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Call to Worship

We are welcomed into the family of God on this Fourth Sunday of Easter. Let us worship God together in faith, hope and love. Let us lift our eyes, thoughts and hearts to you, O God that we may see how Your pastoral care of all of us brings us together.

Hymn VU 158 Christ is Alive

Prayer of Confession

Gentle God, Remind us, that as a part of your family no one is unattended, or considered "less than," or left outside the fold of your realm.

Help us to recognize the strength we gain from one another. May we be ever mindful of the distinctive gifts we bring into our wider United Church of Canada family.

Forgive us when we forget. Create in us a renewed gratitude for relationships with all your people everywhere.

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance

Like the Good Shepherd,
we can be led to know each other by name,
to feed and to be fed by the other.

May the Welcoming Shepherd lead us to stand with and up
for one another in times of trials and difficulties.

May God's mercy reach each of us. **Amen.**

Anthem Hallelujah from "Mount of Olives" by L. Van Beethoven

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture Reading Shannon MacFarlane

John 9:1-41

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

Thanks be to God.

Message Seeing is Believing

Solo How Great thou Art
given by Rebecca McIntosh

arr. Dan Forrest

Minute for Mission "Access to Safe Water" John Grivell

Collection of Offerings and Offertory

“Embraced and enfolded into the family of God, in gratitude, let us respond generously with our time, talent, and finances to our church's resources. May what we offer be shared with the whole Family of God.”

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.

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.**

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Prayer of Dedication

Dear God, we pray that you imbue the world leaders of every political stripe with patience and guidance as they seek peaceful resolutions to today's challenges. We often think in ways that divide us, emphasizing our differences. Remind us all that we are a part of a world community, one family that regardless of nationality, culture, language, or gender, we are all touched by your grace.

And Lord, grant us the courage to transform our local communities, caring for the poor, standing up for the oppressed so they may be peaceful, loving examples of your compassion. May the world that we shape be a reflection of your light that shines in our lives.

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, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn VU 288 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Commissioning and Sending Forth

May the God of Warm Embrace fill you with joy and friendship as you go.

**May the Welcoming Shepherd go with us this day and forevermore.
Amen.**

Choral Response MV 214 May God's Sheltering Wings Vs 1

**May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love, and hold you in her love.**

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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.*

Lectionary Readings – April 29 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26–40 - Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch.

Psalms 22:25–31 (VU p. 746 Parts Three and Four) - Praise God who has heard our call.

1 John 4:7–21 - Everyone who loves is born of God.

John 15:1–8 - Jesus is the true vine.

To Ponder

What makes a good companion?