



Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday Jan. 22, 2017

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Special Anniversary Worship Service -

The Bell Tower Community Cafe

10:30 am

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

Prelude

Christ Candle is lit

Welcome and News

Introit MV 1 **Let Us Build a House**

***Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.***

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,

rock of faith and vault of grace;

here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

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CALL TO WORSHIP* (based on Isaiah 9: 1-4)

Come out of the shadows and into God's light!

We will make a pilgrimage to God's heart.

Lay down all which is a burden to you!

**We will give our fears to God,
who is our help in every moment.**

Follow the One who will lead you to new life!

**We long to live in God's presence
every day of our lives.**

PRAYER of Approach

Holy God, Source of all Love-

We hear your call to follow your path in as many ways as there are stars in the sky....

Some hear a call to give witness to your love by working for justice in the public realm,

Some hear a call to speak your truth in movements for change- on the world stage, in our neighborhoods, in our communities of faith;

Some you call to be prophets and proclaim your way in stirring speeches; While others heed your call to sing your love through harmony, melody or gentle lullaby, or to proclaim your love through compassionate ways and quiet deeds.

ALL: Jesus's invitation "to follow me" is an open invitation, a generous invitation, a loving invitation. Help us give thanks for the many ways this call is faithfully lived out in the lives of those around us. And throughout our time of worship, and in our daily living, help us hear those gentle whispers of call and encouragement and challenge all around. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen

Hymn VU 220 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Gracious God, we are most keenly aware of our insecurities, failures and limitations when we trip over them in our lives. In those times, we are often filled with regret or remorse. We wish our limitations did not hurt or disappoint others. We struggle when our insecurities dampen our ability to live open-hearted lives. In those times, Holy God, we definitely understand those ancient words of the psalmist, *have mercy on us*. May your love become the core of our hearts, we pray. May your compassion be the words we speak, and may your hope illuminate the ways we can serve others, as we seek to follow the One who calls us to new life, Jesus Christ.....

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance (based on Psalm 27: 1, 4-9)**

God is our help, so why should we be afraid?

God keeps us safe, there is nothing to dread!

This is good news for all of us.

**Sheltered in God's gracious heart of mercy
and love, we raise shouts of joy: thanks be to God!**

Amen.

The Anthem Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor by Malcolm Archer

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Scripture Readings: given by Alycia Leafloor

Isaiah 9: 1-4 NRSV p. 638

Matthew 4: 12-23 NRSV p. 3

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

Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 601 The Church of Christ in Every Age

Reflection Time The Bell Tower Community Café

Meaghan Pauls and Rorie McLeod Arnould

Solo

Through All of It

given by Wes Rambo

words and music by Molly Reid and Max Glover

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 228 Sing Praises to God (verse 4)public domain

Sing praises to God! Thanksgiving and song

be ever out-poured, all ages along:

For love in creation, for hope spread abroad,

for grace of salvation, sing praises to God.

Prayer of Dedication (*based on Psalm 27: 1, 4-9*)

The Prayers of the People

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 VU 584 **Through the Heart of Every City**

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response VU 884 **You Shall Go Out with Joy**
**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,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the fields will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.**

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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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