

Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday Sept. 24, 2017

16th Sunday after Pentecost

125th Special Anniversary Service –

The Women of the Westminster Church Community, Mary Scott

10:30 a.m.

*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

Prayer of Approach (unison)

God, some of us gather here out of habit, some of us out of pain; some of us out of longing and some seeking a sense of belonging; some for a safe place to ask questions and some to *simply be*. Whatever the reason, it is good - and it is good to be together. May we be open to your Spirit speaking to us in this time together. May we find what we need to go out and live our lives with generous spirits and compassionate hearts. Amen

Hymn VU 288 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Prayer of Confession

God when we get afraid of what lies ahead, when we want to stay with what we know, even if what we know may not be best...

Forgive us and open us to your calling Spirit.

When we don't see the signs of hope we expect - we complain, we turn to other things and we often blame each other...

Forgive us and open us to seek your restoring Spirit

When we do have enough, we often feel it is not enough and we want even more. And often we forget or neglect others who struggle with less than enough ...

Forgive us and open us to seek your generous Spirit

When we work so hard to attain, to accomplish, to build - we forget it is not only by our own actions that these things happen... we neglect to see your grace and Spirit through the generosity, challenge, work and gifts of others that have made our lives richer, fuller, and our accomplishments possible...

Forgive us and open us to seek your humble Spirit.

Moment of silence for personal reflection.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Anthem

Come Down, Lord

words, music by Stand Pethel

Scripture Readings: Lynn E. Soens

Exodus 16: 2-15

Matthew 20: 1-16

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

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

MV 179 Sisters Let us Walk Together

Message Mary Scott, *Women and the Westminster Church Community*

Solo

Ave Maria

JS Bach, arranged by C. Gounod

given by Cathryn Harrison

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

Hymn VU 601 The Church of Christ in Every Age

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.

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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 for Sunday, October 1 – from Gathering, Pentecost 2

October 1 – World Communion Sunday

Creation Time 4 in the Season of Pentecost

Proper 21

Worship materials for October 1 were contributed by Kim Vidal, Bells Corners U.C., Bells Corners, Ont.

Exodus 17:1–17 Water flows from the rock for thirsty people.

Psalms 78:1–4, 12–16 (VU p. 792, Parts One and Two) God's marvelous deeds.

Philippians 2:1–13 Let the same mind be in you that was in Jesus.

Matthew 21:23–32 By what authority does Jesus act and teach?

To Ponder

How do you use water? How do you perceive it as part of your daily life or your faith life?