



Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church
celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Lent 2
10:30 am

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

Prelude

Welcome and News

Introit In You There Is a Refuge MV 84 Verse 2

In you there is a vision, in you we learn to dream.

When all we see is desert may you be our living stream.

In you there is a future, in you we find our way.

When hope has shed its brightness may you show us a new day.

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Call to Worship/Approach*

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day:

**To the place where God covenants with us,
offering us new beginnings and second chances.**

Lent calls us to journey:

**To follow the path of Jesus, even when it means we have to take up
our cross....**

Lent calls us to practice justice,
and share God's hope for the world.

Lent calls us to faithful living,
to trust the One who gives us life.

Lent calls us to journey with God.

**Let us worship God, who walks with us,
this and every day.**

Hymn VU 574 Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love

Lenten Liturgy (Ron Miller and Boyd Rausch)

Today is the second Sunday of Lent.

Lent is a time of reflection, when we think about those things that block us from following God's path of loving and caring for one another and for the world.

Today we extinguish our second Lenten candle. This candle represents greed – greed within us, greed that exists in our world, and greed that fosters dissatisfaction - and dismisses kindness, generosity and caring for others.

(Candle is extinguished)

Trusting that God's love and compassion is stronger than the greed and anger in our world, let us pray:

Gracious God, We give thanks that you accept us for who we are, and love us into who we can be. Throughout this Lenten journey, help us remember that even in those shadow places of our lives, your grace

and presence is always with us, always holding us close and nudging us forward. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Sing: "Take, O take me as I am" (MV 85) *(sung twice; please remain seated)*

**Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be:
Set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.**

Prayer of Reflection/Confession (unison)**

God of all ages, we acknowledge that we can be so distracted from your presence in our lives. We can spend hours at the computer and talk endlessly on our cell phones, but fall silent when it comes to hearing your call, or sharing our fears, our worries, our hopes with you. We seek quick fixes for our problems, rather than listening for your hopes, seeking your vision, or living your justice with our lives. Help us lay aside all that keeps us from walking in your path of peace, the path of Jesus the Christ.....

Moment of silence for personal reflection.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE

Anthem **Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise** **by Simon Mold**

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Scripture Reading: Doug Abra

Genesis 17: 1-7; 15-16

Mark 8: 31-38

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

Thanks be to God.

Hymn MV 161 I Have Called You by Your Name

Message

Musical Offering the Jo Family

Minute for Mission “Like a Family” 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 Lord, Speak to Me VU 589 Verse 4

O fill me with your fullness, Lord,

Until my very heart o’erflows

in kindling thought and glowing word,

Your love to tell, your praise to show.

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Offering Doxology

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 VU 634 To Abraham and Sarah (THORNBURY)

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response Be Thou My Vision VU 642 Verse 5
**Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

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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.*

***c)** Thom Shuman, Presbyterian Church USA <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca> (adapted)

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Lectionary Readings – March 4 – Lent 3

Exodus 20:1–17 - The Ten Commandments.

Psalms 19 (VU pp. 740–741) - The heavens declare the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18–25 - God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.

John 2:13–22 - Jesus clears the temple.

To Ponder

“The Spirit judges us critically when we abuse scripture by interpreting it narrow-mindedly, using it as a tool of oppression, exclusion, or hatred” (from *A Song of Faith*, The United Church of Canada, 2006). Do you feel that you are a part of seeking justice and resisting evil?

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