



Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018

Sixth Sunday of Lent

10:30 am

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

Prelude

Welcome and News

Introit

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When they had come near Jerusalem Jesus sent two disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; bring them to me."

Congregation: **The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.**

Choir: A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting.

**ALL: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

One: When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"
The crowds were saying,

ALL: This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.

Palm Sunday Procession VU 123 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
VU 122 All Glory, Laud and Honour

The congregation is welcome to join the choir in the procession. Please jump in!

Prayer of Approach

Lenten Liturgy Lynn E. Soens and Marnie Bolland
(1 candle is lit representing the one remaining Sunday in Lent)

Today is the sixth 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 sixth Lenten candle. This candle represents helplessness – a sense of helplessness within us and a sense of helplessness that exists in our world. A sense of helplessness that limits our self-worth, and our belief that change is possible for ourselves, our communities, and our world. And a sense of helplessness that threatens the spirit of hope and possibility for the children of our world.

(Candle is extinguished)

Trusting that God's love and compassion is stronger than the sense of helplessness, and stronger than the envy, pride and arrogance, fear, 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, and always encourages us towards new life and new ways. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Response: MV 85 Take, O Take Me as I Am (sung twice, 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 Confession*

God of the Ages, we come to you this day aware of all the ways we do not live up to or live out what we profess to believe. We shout "hosanna" one day and "crucify" the next. We profess undying loyalty one day and deny everything the next. And how often is that we follow the path of Jesus only when it seems easy, only when it seems convenient, and only when it does not challenge or disrupt our everyday lives.....

Moment of silence for personal reflection.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Assurance

Covenanting with Westminster Church Board

(members of the board are invited to come forward at this time)

Statement of Purpose:

Friends, each of us is called by God to ministry ...

.....as we all seek to live God's love in the world.

And so I ask you the members of the church board.....

As people of faith, will you carry out your responsibilities to this congregation with integrity and joy?

I will, God being my helper.

To the members of the various committees of the church board.....I ask you to please stand where you are....

As people of faith, will you carry out your responsibilities to this congregation and to your committee with integrity and joy?

I will, God being my helper.

To the congregation

Will you, the members of Westminster United Church

honour the leadership of those who serve as leaders in our church?

Will you encourage and support their tasks and challenges ahead through prayer, generosity of spirit, patience, and compassion, so that together, we may be faithful followers of Jesus Christ, seeking to God's path of peace and love in the world?

We will, God being our helper.

Prayer

Declaration

Anthem Ride On!

by Taylor Davis

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: Bob Gold

Mark 11: 1-11

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

Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 595 We are Pilgrims

Sermon

Solo The Holy City
given by Cathryn Harrison

by Stephen Adams

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

Prayer of Dedication

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 651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response

Organ Postlude *If departing before the end of the postlude, please do so quietly for the benefit of those remaining to enjoy the music.*

**Written by Beth W. Johnston. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2018. Page 36 (adapted). Used with permission.*

Lectionary Readings – March 29, 30, April 1

Worship materials through Easter Sunday were contributed by Kathleen James-Cavan, Knox U.C., Langham, Sask.

March 29 – Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1–4, (5–10), 11–14 - Instructions for the first

Psalms 116:1–2, 12–19 (VU p. 836) - How can I repay you, O God?

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 - An account of the Last Supper.

John 13:1–17, 31b–35 - Jesus washes the disciples' feet.

To Ponder - Remember a meal where you felt radically inclusive love.

March 30 – Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13–53:12 - The servant is despised, suffering, acquainted with infirmity.

Psalms 22 (VU p. 743–746) - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Hebrews 10:16–25 - Let us approach God with a true heart.

or **Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9** - Jesus the High Priest.

John 18:1–19:42 - The betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion of Jesus.

To Ponder - If you had been there that day when Jesus died, what might have been your reaction?

April 1 – Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34–43 - Peter preaches, "God shows no partiality."

or **Isaiah 25:6–9** - God provides a rich feast.

Psalms 118:1–2, 14–24 (VU p. 837 Parts One, Two, and Three) - God is my strength and my song.

1 Corinthians 15:1–11 - An account of Jesus' resurrection appearances.

John 20:1–18 or **Mark 16:1–8** - The resurrected Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene.

To Ponder - What might you have done if you had discovered the empty tomb?