



# **Sunday Worship**

## **Westminster United Church**

*celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community*

**Sunday March 26, 2017**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Special Anniversary Worship Service -**

***The Westminster Housing Society***

**10:30 am**

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

**Prelude**

**Christ Candle is lit**

## Welcome and News

### Anniversary Unveiling (with Loretta Basiuk)

**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

We come to worship on this crisp Lenten morning

**Bringing with us all that is going on in our lives**

We come to find calm in the midst of stress and inner storms

And hope for when the world seems dark

**We come to find strength when all feels weakened**

We come seeking the path that helps us make choices that are kind,  
compassionate and just

**And the path that helps us make amends when our  
choices have hurt or wounded others along the way**

We come seeking God - the source of all that is

**We come to give thanks and praise, and to open ourselves to God's  
holy whispers of wisdom that surround us.**

come, let us continue our time of worship.

**Hymn** VU 415 God, We Praise You for the Morning

## **Prayer of Approach**

One thing we know,  
Listener to our hearts:

**you are the One  
who calls us out on journeys  
and waits for us at  
the final destination.**

One thing we know,  
Healer of our lives:

**when we find ourselves  
in valleys veiled in shadows,  
you are walking alongside us  
even though we may never notice.**

One thing we know,  
Comforter of our souls:

**when we face challenge,  
And are weakened  
by the tough stuff of our lives,  
you come to us, to rest  
your strengthening peace upon us.**

One thing we know,  
God of compassion and love:

**even when we cannot see you,  
you are always with us, gently nudging us to open our eyes to your  
abundant grace.**

Thanks be to God, Amen.

## **Lenten Liturgy** (Shannon MacFarlane and Lynlee Wolstencroft )

*(Three candles are lit representing the three remaining Sundays in Lent)*

Today is the fourth 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 loving and caring for the world.

Today we extinguish our fourth Lenten candle. This candle represents pride and arrogance – pride and arrogance within us, pride and arrogance that exists in our world, pride and arrogance that hurts relationships, blinds us to the needs of others, and makes us fearful of being vulnerable or asking for help.

*(Candle is extinguished)*

Trusting that God's love and compassion is stronger than the 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 that you love us into who we can be, all the days of our lives.**

**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 surrounding us, always holding us close and moving us forward. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

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

***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**

Maker of sky and sea, who hears your people cry, and tastes their Lenten tears....

**open the imaginations of our hearts to see as you do.**

*Silence*

**Merciful One: we are so sensitive when we are sinned against...**

give us the eyes to see when we have sinned and the spirit to know how that hurts others, and you.....

***Moment of silence for personal confession.***

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Words of Assurance**

**The Anthem**      Lord I Want to Be a Christian      by Brazeal W. Denard

**The Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Scripture Reading:**      Carol Latter

John 9: 1-41    NRSV p.102

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**      VU 747    The Lord's My Shepherd

**Reflection Time**    Westminster Housing Society - *Charles Huband*

**Solo**      In Heaven's Eyes  
given by Nicki Kirton

words and music by Phill McHugh

## **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**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

## **Prayer of Dedication**

## **The Prayers of the People**

### **The Lord's Prayer (sung) VU 959**

**Hymn MV 171 Christ Has No Body Now but Yours**

## **Commissioning and Sending Forth**

**Choral Response MV 222 May the Peace of God Be Your Peace**

**May the peace of God be your peace.**

**May the love of God be the love you show.**

**May the joy of God be the joy you know,**

**and may the world that God would see be found in you.**

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