



Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

*Over 125 years of ministry in the community –
Moving forward in a tradition of service*

Sunday, December 29, 2019

10:30 am

“Take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt” Matt. 2: 13

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

Organ Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

Welcome and News

Introit VU 76 *verse 1*

See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.

[Refrain:]

Hail, thou ever-blessed morn;
hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

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Call to Worship The light shines in the deepest night and the night has not overcome it.

Hymn VU 36 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Prayer of Confession

God of glory, angels called to shepherds and wisemen with songs of your good news. Mary pondered the mystery of your goodness in the tumult of new birth. Your splendor shines from a manger where the Light of the world was born to pierce our darkness. In the fragility of flesh you are revealed to us face to face. With Christmas past we gather in worship to reflect on relationships we shared the event with. God of compassion, you offer light to live by. Too often we let the darkness overcome us so for those moments we ask forgiveness.

You promise new life, but we confess that we are found by habit, in love with our old ways of thinking and acting; with hurts we nourish, hatreds that hold us hostage, and fantasies that restrict our living.

You offer to us unconditional love to bring new life, but we reject family, friends who differ.

Recreate us in the image of your son where Love has the last word after we ask for your forgiveness...

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance

In him we are made acceptable to God. Let us give thanks to God, and be at peace with ourselves and with one another.

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture Reading: Judy Hill

Matthew 2: 13-23

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

Thanks be to God.

Message Social Capital Expands Opportunities Rev. Don McIntyre

Hymn VU 74 What Child Is This

Solo Mary Did You Know by Lowry
given by Fred Simpson

COLLECTION OF OFFERINGS AND OFFERTORY

After the offering is introduced, an offertory will be played by the organist and the collection taken. Thank you for your gift, whether given today or through other means of supporting ministry at Westminster Church.

Leader: With this offering we present also ourselves:

All that we have been,

All that we are,

And all that we shall become as we resolve to walk in the way of Christ in all that we do.

Offering Doxology (first time: one voice; second time: all voices; third time: round) Glory to God

first time: one voice
second time: all voices

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah!

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Prayer of Dedication

Open our ears to the call of your voice as we are encouraged to give.

As we dedicate our offerings to the One in the 'Manger' and the One who had to flee to safety we pray for the dawning of a new day.

Fill us with anticipation for your future. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

God of love, we give thanks for the many blessings you have given to us during our lives. We are grateful for opportunities to celebrate life and the birth of our Saviour Jesus with family and friends.

We are aware of those whose hearts this Christmas season are filled with pain and suffering, or fear. For some, we know that Christmas will forever be linked with loss or anguish.

We remember before you, O God, those who do not have enough to eat or who eat alone; those who do not have adequate shelter or who lack human contact and comfort; those who have had their hearts and lives broken by some trauma or loss.

**Help them to find solace in you, God. Bring peace to all heavy hearts. We pray specifically for family members and friends who are struggling;
hear our prayers in the silence of our hearts, Lord.....**

We pray for all your children, known and unknown to us; stir in their minds, protect their bodies, strengthen their characters, and protect their joy.

As the year draws to a close, help us to look back with gratitude for all that has been, and to look forward with eager anticipation for new opportunities to grow closer to you and to each other. We pray as Jesus teaches all his followers saying:

Our Father/Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

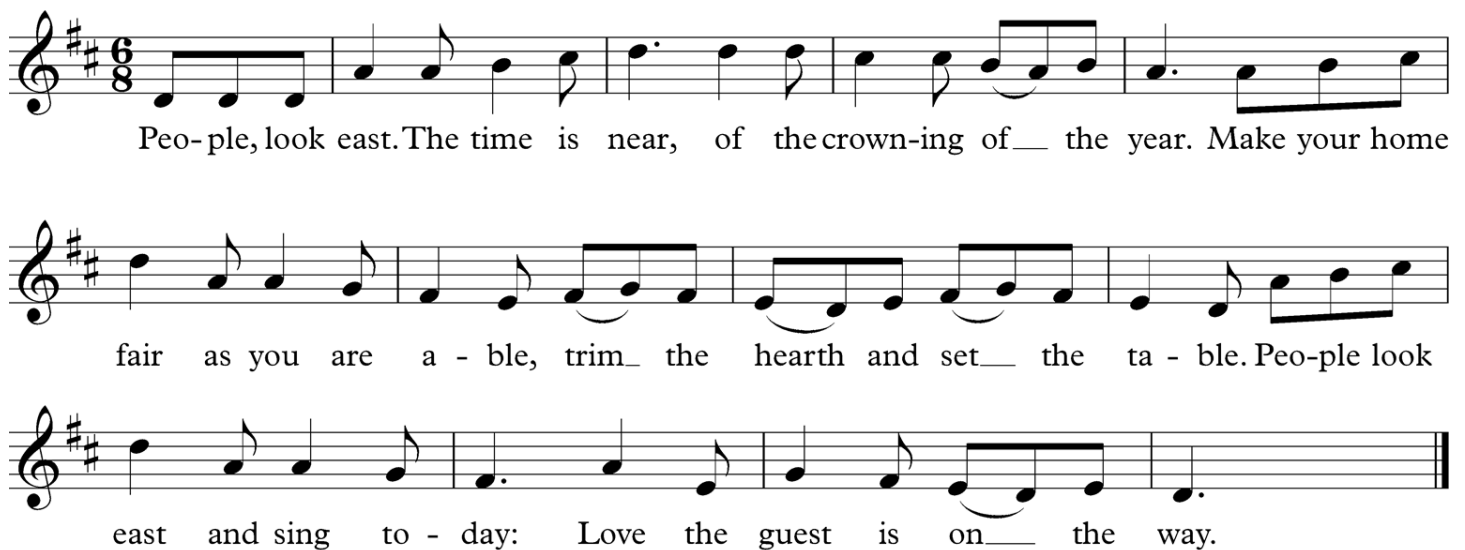
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

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, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter

Commissioning and Sending Forth We are light for the world. “As God has called you, live up to your calling.” -Ephesians 4:1

Choral Response People Look East



Peo-ple, look east. The time is near, of the crown-ing of__ the year. Make your home
fair as you are a - ble, trim__ the hearth and set__ the ta - ble. Peo-ple look
east and sing to - day: Love the guest is on__ the way.

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Organ Postlude

Lectionary Readings (*Gathering*, ACE 2019-2020, page 18,20. Used with permission.) *Worship materials for December 24 to January 5 were contributed by the Gathering Advisory Board.*

January 1 – New Year’s Day

Ecclesiastes 3:1–13

For everything, there is a season.

Psalm 8 (VU pp. 730–732)

What are humans that God is mindful of them?

Revelation 21:1–6a

A new heaven and a new earth.

Matthew 25:31–46

Judging the sheep and the goats.

To Ponder

What does it mean to say that God has placed eternity on our hearts?

January 5 – Second Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7–14

I will gather them in, turn mourning into joy.

Psalm 147:12–20 (VU pp. 868–869 Part Two)

God sends God’s word to earth.

Ephesians 1:3–14

Destined for adoption as God’s children.

John 1:(1–9), 10–18

The Word became flesh; we have seen his glory.

To Ponder

What significant choices have you made in life? How have they shaped you?