



Sunday Worship

Westminster Church

The United Church of Canada

Celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday, September 30, 2018

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Organ prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

Welcome and news

Introit MV 28 God of the Bible
God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
Hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
You are our centre,
daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.

Refrain

Fresh as the morning,
sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning,
sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

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Call to Worship*

God of the salt; God of the fire; God of anger
God of laughter; God of parables and riddles
God of story and proclamation; God of comfort
God of pain; God of life and all creation
come now... be now... here now.
Amen.

Prayer of Approach

Spirit of Love and Life,
Gather us into community at this time.
Settle our bodies, focus our minds, lift our burdens, open our hearts.
**Help us be present in this moment, so we might worship fully and
freely we pray. Amen**

Hymn VU 262 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Prayer of Confession**

Called to be your people, Living God - why do we find it so hard to answer? You ask us to speak out against injustice,

yet we whisper because we are afraid someone might hear us.

You ask us to see the pain and poverty around us,

but we often just close our eyes.

You tell us that everyone, and each one, is created in your image,

yet we persist in noticing the differences between us and others.

Help our lives reflect your gifts of peace and hope, healing and joy; and may our faith community help create healing and wholeness to the brokenness of our world.....

Silence

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Anthem

Locus Iste

by Anton Bruckner

Translation

This place was made by God,

a priceless sacrament;

it is without reproach.

Children's Time *one small thing*

Following the Children's time, the younger crowd is welcome to join Katelyn at the Children's Table in the Narthex for a time of activity, story, conversation and sometimes even music.

Scripture Readings Lynn E. Soens

Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22

Psalm 124 (*from VU 848, refrain 1*) *Part of the tradition here at Westminster UC is to stand for the reading/singing of the Psalm, as you are able.*

Mark 9: 38-50

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

Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 378 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Message *....have salt in yourselves, and be at peace...*

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.

Offering Doxology MV 36 Glory to God

One: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

All: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

One: To God be glory forever!

All: To God be glory forever!

One: Alleluya, amen!

All: Alleluya, amen! x 4

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Prayer of Dedication* (unison)**

**Gracious God, we offer our gifts
from the work of our hands to the work of your church,
for the encouragement of all people and all creation,
and with the love of Christ in our hearts.
Bless our offerings, and our living, Amen**

Prayers of the People

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

Hymn VU 642 Be Thou My Vision

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response VU 623 Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design

**Let eyes that in the plainest cloth
a hidden beauty see
discern in us our richest hues,
show us the patterns we may use
to set our spirits free,
to set our spirits free.**

Words: Nancy C. Dorian Words copyright 1992 Unitarian Universalist Association.

Organ Postlude

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

* Based on Mark 9:49-50. Written for Evangelical United Church of Christ, 1997. Copyright Katherine Hawker used with permission.

** Thom Shuman, *lectionary liturgies*, .blogspot.ca, 2015.

***Written by John van de Laar; found on www.sacredise.com

Lectionary Readings

Creation Time 5 in the Season of Pentecost - Proper 22

Worship materials for World Communion Sunday to the Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost were contributed by Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont.

October 7 – World Communion Sunday

Job 1:1; 2:1–10 - Job's first affliction; faith intact.

Psalms 26 - Prove me, try me, test my heart.

Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12 - God gave the world to humans, not angels.

Mark 10:2–16 - Question of divorce; Jesus blesses children.

To Ponder

Why do you believe bad things happen to good people?

October 7 – Thanksgiving Sunday

Joel 2:21–27 - Do not fear, O soil, for God will provide.

Psalms 126 (VU p. 850) - Those who sow in tears reap in joy.

1 Timothy 2:1–7 - Offer prayers for everyone.

Matthew 6:25–33 - Do not worry about what you will eat or drink.

To Ponder

Do you believe that God provides more than we need? Why or why not?