



**Sunday Worship**  
**Westminster United Church**  
The United Church of Canada  
*Celebrating over 125 years of ministry in the community*  
**Sunday, March 31, 2019**  
**Lent 4**  
**10:30 am**

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

## Welcome and News

### Centering Music

### Call to Worship

Hymn VU 244      Sing Your Praise to God Eternal

**Lenten Liturgy** – Rebecca McIntosh and Jennifer Turner

*(three candles are lit before the service)*

Today is the fourth Sunday of Lent.

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

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

*(Candle is extinguished)*

As we move through our Lenten journey, may we remember that God's love and compassion is stronger than all the pride and arrogance, fear, greed and anger in our world. Let us pray:

**Holy God, you accept us for who we are, and love us into who we can be. As we walk through this time of Lent, help us remember that your grace and presence is always with us - even in those shadow places of our lives. Help us reflect your love in our hearts and our living. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

**Sing:** “Take, O Take Me as I Am” (MV 85) *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**

O Love that will not let us go;

**You show us the depth and breadth of your love in the path of Jesus Christ.**

Yours is a love that searches out the lost and rejected and welcomes them home, brings wholeness and healing, is not satisfied with half truths, confronts evil and injustice head on, and invites the outcasts, despised, and the unlovely to sit and feast at your shared table.

**Forgive us when our choices mean we lose our way and lose sight of the path you call us to follow. Sometimes we let our anxieties and sorrow limit our lives. Sometimes we are too afraid or too arrogant to ask for help. Sometimes our despair or anger blocks us from trying new things or moving outside our comfort zones. Give us strength and courage to continue to follow your path of peace, wholeness and abundance for all. And may we know your Spirit of love and compassion with us as we seek to be faithful, now and always.....**

*Moment of silence for personal confession.*

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

### **Words of Assurance**

**Anthem** Welcome, Welcome, Dear Redeemer by Cesar Franck  
Fred Simpson, Baritone

## **The Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Following the passing of the peace, 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:** Judy Hill

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** MV 20 God of Still Waiting

## **Message**

**Solo** He Shall Feed His Flock like a Shepherd

from Messiah by G.F. Handel

given by Jennifer Turner

**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** VU 541 Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow  
(public domain)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.  
Prayer of Dedication**

## **The Prayers of the People**

**Hymn** VU 556 Would You Bless Our Homes and Families

## **Commissioning and Sending Forth**

**Choral Response** VU 964 Go Now in Peace (sung twice) –  
**Go now in peace, go now in peace.  
May the love of God surround you  
everywhere, everywhere, you may go.**

Words and Music: Natalie Sleeth ©1976 Hinshaw Music, inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under [OneLicense.net](https://www.onelicense.net) #A-720863

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

## **April 7 – Lent 5**

*Worship materials for Lent 4 and Lent 5 were contributed by Teresa Burnett-Cole, Glebe-St. James U.C., Ottawa, Ont. Gathering, L/E 2019, page 14. Used with permission.*

**Isaiah 43:16–21** - Look, I am doing something new.

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

**Philippians 3:4b–14** - I count everything as loss, but knowing Christ.

**John 12:1–8** - Mary anoints Jesus with costly ointment.

**To Ponder** - What scent or taste or texture or sound reminds you of love—the love of family, friends, and God?