

Westminster United Church

Order of Worship  January 28, 2018
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
CHRISTIAN
UNITY

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

(* invites people to stand as they are able;
people's part in **bold type**)

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Announcements

Today's Service incorporates elements of the Service of Word and Sacrament of the Disciples of Christ, our partner church in the U.S.A, and elements from Celebrate God's Presence, an on-line resource of The United Church of Canada.

We recognize the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" today. The World Council of Churches chose the Churches of the Caribbean as the focus of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18 to January 25, 2018.

The contemporary Caribbean is deeply marked by the dehumanizing project of colonial exploitation. Very regrettably, during five hundred years of colonialism and enslavement, Christian missionary activity in the region, with the exception of a few outstanding examples, was closely tied to this dehumanizing system and in many ways rationalized it and enforced it. Whereas those who brought the Bible to this region used the scriptures to justify their subjugation of a people in bondage, in the hands of the enslaved, the Bible became an inspiration, an assurance that God was on their side, and that God would lead them into freedom.

Today Caribbean Christians of many different traditions see the hand of God active in the ending of enslavement. It is a uniting experience of the saving action of God which brings freedom. For this reason we sing today "From the Slave Pens of the Delta" to testify to the saving actions of God that bring freedom to humankind.



S U N D A Y, J A N U A R Y 28

*Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Christ is with us.

Christ is in our midst.

Let us pray.

*Prayer of Invocation (unison)

Eternal God, companion of all who seek you, and seeker of all who draw away from you, draw near to us that we may draw near to you. Grant us the grace to love and serve you. May we find in your will our true freedom; through Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

*Opening Hymn VU 690 (alternate tune VU 635)

“ From the Slave Pens of the Delta ”

Prayer of Confession

Let us confess our sin against God and against each other.

Merciful God, we know that; you love us and that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy. Our prosperous land is the promised land of our longing. Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others,

and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen. (silence)

Assurance of Pardon

Almighty God has forgiven you all your sins and has promised to bring you to everlasting life.

Amen.

Almighty God has forgiven you all your sins and has promised to bring you to everlasting life.

Amen.

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer of Preparation (Unison)

We give thanks, O God of sacred stories, for the witness of Holy Scripture.

Bless our hearing of your word this day.

Speak to each of us; speak to all of us.

Grant that by the power of your Spirit, we may be hearers and doers of your word.

Amen.

First Reading Jeremiah 1:4-10 Doug Burt

Psalm 71 VU 789 part 1 responsive

Gospel Reading Luke 4:16-30 Rev M Spencer

Sermon Rev M Spencer



RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Communion Hymn VU 457

“As We Gather at Your Table”

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

So if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there remember that your sister or brother has something against you, leave your gift in front of the altar, make peace with your brother or sister, and then come back and offer your gift.

**In response to Christ’s command,
we reach out to each other in love.**

The Offertory

We shall bring to Christ’s table with our offerings the bread and wine for the supper. Christ invites to this table all who profess the Christian faith, who endeavour to be at peace with their neighbours, and who seek the mercy of God.

*Offertory Dedication VU 541 (sung)

**“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.”**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

This Do In Remembrance of Me

Sacrament of Communion



Invitation

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.
You who come to me shall not hunger.
You who believe in me shall never thirst.

**In company with all who hunger for spiritual
food,
we come to this table to know the risen Christ
in the sharing of this life-giving bread.**

Communion Prayer

Holy God, we praise you.
Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad.
We bless you for creating the whole world,
for your promises to your special people Israel,
and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.
Born of Mary, he shares our life.
Eating with sinners, he welcomes us.
Guiding the children, he leads us.
Visiting the sick, he heals us.
Dying on the cross, he saves us.
Raised from the dead, he gives new life.
Living with you, he prays for us.

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory!
Heaven and earth praise you, O God most
high!**

Words of Institution

As we gather at this table,
we remember that on the night before he died,
Jesus had supper with his friends.
He took a loaf of bread,
thanked you as we have thanked you,
broke the bread, and gave it to them saying:
“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Each time you do this, remember me.”

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks,
passed it to his friends, saying:
“Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in
my blood.
Each time you drink from this cup, remember me.”

**According to his commandment,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup
and proclaim Jesus’ death and resurrection.
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
that this meal may be our communion in the body
of Christ.
Make us one with Christ and with all who share
this feast.
Unite us in faith,
encourage us with hope, inspire us to love,
that we may serve as your faithful disciples
until we feast at your table in glory.
We praise you, eternal God,

Through Christ your Word made flesh,
and in the power of your life-giving Spirit,
now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer VU 914

Sharing of the Elements



Prayer After Communion: (Unison)

**We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.
Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world
united in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

Please see communion insert.

***Closing Hymn VU 560**

“ O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee ”

***Commissioning and Blessing**

*** Postlude**



Week OF Prayer

FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The elements will be served this morning by intinction. You are invited to come forward by the centre aisle and return by the side aisles. Anyone unable to come forward will be served happily in the pew. Please note that the elements used are always gluten free.

***Lectionary Readings for Sunday, February 4, 2018
~ Fifth after Epiphany ~***

Isaiah 40: 21-31

Psalms 147: 1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9: 16-23

Mark 1: 29-39

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