

Westminster United Church

Order of Worship

February 18, 2018

Lenten Theme: “ Journey to Enlightenment ”

Prelude

Welcome

Meditation



With music **VU 371** “ *Open My Eyes* ” v.1
With silence

Call to Worship

To you, O God, we lift up the spirit
of our whole selves.

O God, we trust unashamedly in you;
May we begin our Lenten journey together
in right relationships;

Teach us. Show us.

Guide us in your paths.

Grow us to know your ways more clearly.

You are the God of our salvation and
the Sustainer of good relations.

For you we wait.

May integrity, a clean conscience, and upright
living preserve us.

Amen.

Hymn **VU 82** “ *A Light Is Gleaming* ”

Prayer

**Creating and Renewing God, in this Lenten
season we each need the opportunity
to clear our eyes of the glaze of indifference
and apathy. Help us get our minds off
distractions, obsessions and self-pity, so that**

**we don't feel helpless. Help us to start over, so
that we may fill our whole selves with life-
affirming activities and thoughts. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Brothers and Sisters, God hears our prayers and,
even in our human frailty, promises to be with us
in the wilderness times. Observe, find comfort,
and offer with courage to restore and build
relationships among God's people. Experience a
new and renewed sense of hope. Amen.

Hymn **VU 356** “ *Seek Ye First the Kingdom* ”

Readings

Matthew 4 *Jesus discerns his role*

VU 752 Psalm 25 refrain 2
Lead me in your truth, O God.

NOW Testament *We discern our role*

Message “ *An ‘Open and Shut’ Case?* ” B. Stocks

Prayers of the People; The Lord's Prayer **VU 959**

Life and Work of Westminster

Minute for Mission “ *Mission and Service 101* ”

Offertory Prayer

**God of all bounty and blessing,
receive our lives and our gifts
to be bounty and blessings to you,
our church, and the world. Amen.**

Presentation of Our Gifts

Hymn **VU 286**

“ *If You Will Trust in God to Guide You* ”

Benediction

In word

As you begin your Lenten journey to enlightenment, go with strength and courage. You need not fear the darkness, for the light always awaits on the other side. God will not abandon you, and through your faith, hope and patience, you will be guided toward the light that awaits you.

In Song **VU 964** “ *Go Now In Peace* ”

Postlude

Some materials for the First Sunday of Lent are written by the Rev. Rosemary McCombs Maxey, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and a retired clergy of Fellowship Congregational United Church of Christ, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Lectioary Readings for Sunday, February 25, 2018 ***~ Second Sunday in Lent ~***

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22: 23-31
Romans 4: 13-25 Mark 8: 31-38 or Mark 9: 2-9

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