

Westminster United Church

Order of Worship

March 11, 2018

Lenten Theme: “ Journey to Enlightenment ”

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

Prelude

Welcome

Meditation



With music **VU 371** “ Open My Eyes ” v.3

“ Open my mouth... ”

With silence

Call to Worship ¹

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
why have you come to worship this morning?

**We come to celebrate the love of God
in the form of Jesus Christ.**

This love reaches through the shadows of our
lives to embrace us. Our challenge is to trust the
light of God’s love in the midst of our struggles.

**We come to celebrate the light of God
in Jesus who offers love and acceptance,
not judgment and rejection.**

If only we will trust,
Jesus leads us in the way of light and love.

**We come to celebrate our God who loved
and loves us so much!**

*Hymn **VU 222** “ Come, Let Us Sing ”

Prayer of Reconciliation ¹

**God of Comfort and God of Challenge,
we often fail to recognize your blessing at
work in our day to day lives. Forgive us when
we groan about the most insignificant details
of our lives. Challenge us to consider the
bigger picture of oppression, injustice, and
inequality around us. Forgive us for fearing
what you might show us, and lead us to
opportunities to speak truth in our world.
Amen.**

Words of Assurance

You are blessed because God’s image resides
deep within each of you. So return God’s blessing
by the way you love others.

Hymn VU 372 “ *Though I May Speak* ” tune VU 149

Readings

From Matthew 23

A warning against hypocrisy

NOW Testament

“ Speaking Truthfully from our Hearts ” ²

Message “ *Walk the Talk* ” B. Stocks

Prayers of the People; The Lord’s Prayer VU 959

Life and Work of Westminster

Minute for Mission

“ All You Need is Love ”

Offertory Prayer ¹

**Generous One, we give thanks to you,
for your steadfast love endures forever.**

May these gifts be used to feed the hunger and satisfy the thirst of all those throughout your creation. Amen.

Presentation of Our Gifts

***Hymn VU 575**

“ I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me ”

***Benediction**

In word

Go forth, knowing that the love of God is yours to share, the peace of Christ is yours to extend, and the power of the Holy Spirit is yours to offer. Live and speak from your hearts, letting your love flow to all you meet in your world.

In Song **VU 575** v.1

Postlude

¹ Materials written by the Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, Conference Minister for Missouri Mid-South Conference, United Church of Christ.

² From <https://www.elephantjournal.com/2014/11/learning-to-speak-truthfully-from-our-hearts>

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