

# Westminster United Church

Order of Worship

April 8, 2018

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

Prelude

Welcome/Introduction

Lighting the Christ Candle  
Sharing the Peace of Christ

The grace of the Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Choral Response VU 389      *"God Is Here"*

Call to Gather (based on work by Barbara Hamilton-Holway)

We gather here as individual people;  
**of all ages, of all genders,  
abled and differently abled.**

We gather here as a community of people,  
who are more than categories

**We gather here, each ministering to the  
other, meeting one another's strengths,  
encouraging wholeness.**

We give thanks for this extraordinary blessing.

**Here may our minds stretch,  
our hearts open, our spirits deepen.**

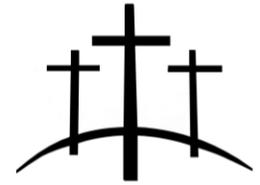
Here may we acknowledge our brokenness,  
**and be ever stirred by love's infinite  
possibilities. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

**Creator God, as we journey through this life,  
keep us always mindful that you walk beside  
us, guiding us when the path is not clear,  
supporting us when the going is rough,  
strengthening us when we get weary,**



**Sunday, April 8, 2018**



and encouraging us when we become afraid.  
Help us to look forward with anticipation,  
rather than backward with regret;  
and to concentrate on working  
for your Kingdom and your glory. Amen.

\*Hymn VU 341 “*Fairest Lord Jesus*”

First Reading Acts 4: 32 - 35

Second Reading John 20: 19 – 31

As God inspired the men who wrote these words,  
May he inspire us to seek their meaning.  
Amen

Prayer For Enlightenment (from Psalm 19)

Let the words of our lips and the meditations  
of our hearts be acceptable to you, O LORD.  
Amen.

Message “*A True Story that Never Happened*”  
Ian Phillips

\*Hymn VU 560 “*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*”

The Presentation of our Gifts

With music

\*With sung response VU 540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,  
with a spirit large and free,  
That ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.

\*With prayer (in unison)

Gracious God, we present these our gifts,  
not from a sense of obligation but from an  
honest desire to support the work of your  
church. Help us to use them wisely,  
following always the teachings of Jesus.  
In his name we pray, Amen.

The Life and Work of the Faith Community

Announcements, This week in the News

Choral Preface to Prayer (please remain seated)  
VU 400 “*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*”

Prayers of God’s People

Lord’s Prayer

\*Hymn VU 173 “*Thine Is the Glory*”

A Prayer for the Journey VU 648 (in unison)

God of the Way,

you are the road we travel,

and the sign we follow;

you are the bread for the journey,

and the wine of arrival.

Guide us as we follow in your way,

holding on to each other,

reaching out to your beloved world.

And when we stray,

seek us out and find us,

set our feet on the path again,

and lead us safely home.

In the name of Jesus our Companion, we pray.

Amen.

\*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

*Lectionary Readings for Sunday, April 15, 2018*  
~ *Third Sunday of Easter* ~

Acts 3: 12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3: 1-7

Luke 24: 36b-48