

# Westminster United Church

## Order of Worship

January 20, 2019

## Second Sunday after Epiphany

## Gathering Music

## Welcome and Announcements

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

## Entry Into Celebration

We have come together at this sacred time  
and in this sacred place to celebrate  
the Second Sunday after Epiphany...

*Silence*

May our time together renew our hope.

**May the stories we share refresh our courage.**

May the songs we sing lift our spirits.

**May the words we speak invigorate us.**

May the touch of hands, the sound of laughter,  
the sight of faces new and familiar,

**Restore us in faith.**

*The singing bowl is sounded three times*

## Prayer of Approach

Spirit of Life, we gather here in loving community.  
Remind us of the responsibilities of being human.  
Give us the strength to endure,  
and more importantly,  
help us to bring strength to each other.



May we exclude no one intentionally.

May our church be as inclusive as we dare to hope  
it is. And may our coming and going be blessed  
this day and forever more.

**May it be so with us. Amen.**

★Opening Hymn VU 315 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

A Conversation *Our Stories, Our Faith*

★Hymn VU 343 “I Love to Tell the Story”

## A Celebration of Faith

It is good to be alive!

To share with each other in this wonder-filled  
and evolving universe.

**We are most grateful.**

May wisdom dawn in us

**So that we may see all things in clarity.**

*Silence*

For our community gathered here,  
for the spirit that has called us together  
and drew us to this place

**We give thanks this day.**

For moments we have shared with others;  
for times we have reached out across barriers of  
distance and fear; for times when others have  
reached out to us; for moments when we have  
discovered another along our path;

**We give thanks this day.**

For this community of celebration and growth,  
introspection and solitude; and for those moments  
of “that peace which passes all understanding”

**We give thanks this day.**

For our gathering together out of distant places,  
for our weaving together out of many separate  
selves in order to spend this hour in worship  
and celebration

**We give thanks this day.**

*Silence*

Amen.

### Sharing the Peace

May a heart of peace rest with you.

**And also with you.**

### Choral Response MV 14

(sung twice)

*“ Where Two or Three Are Gathered ”*

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,  
I am there, I am there.**

### Readings

From the Early Church      *1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a*

From the Gospels              *Luke 4:14-21*

From the ‘New Testament’    *A Responsive Reading  
Reflecting on Life as Canadian Christians*

(based on the writings of Dorothy McRae-McMahon, adapted)

*One:* Come to us, Creating God,  
as the One who walks the way of ordinary people.

***All:* Come to us,  
as the One who weeps over the city.**

*One:* Come to us as the One  
who deeply understands the paradox of life  
which rises from death.

***All:* Come to us in the language of grace so that  
we may approach you in vulnerable hope.**

*One:* Give us new life if the old one has been  
destroyed within us.

***All:* Give us openness if we have closed our  
hearts to your future.**

*One:* Give us courage, if we tread this land  
in fear of bringing our gifts.

***All:* Give us wisdom, when we forget to listen  
to the language of our history.**

*One:* Give us joy when we see the breadth of your  
imagination, expressed in differences between us:

***All:* Differences of race and culture;  
differences of history and journey;  
differences in our experiences of you.**

*One:* Bind us together as those who feel your love  
under our feet in the warmth of this our holy ground.

***All:* Dance within our life, O Spirit of God,  
so that we may be transformed by your eternal  
passion for making all things new.**

*One:* Amen.

### Reflections on This Morning’s Readings

Let us recognize the seeds of truth and wisdom  
in these readings.

**And may these seeds of truth and wisdom  
be planted in the fertile soil  
of our hearts and minds...**

**Choral Response VU 381** “ *Spirit of Life* ”**Centering Silence** (Min)

Come, teach us, Spirit of God,  
the language of your way,  
the lessons we need to live, the faith for every day...

*Silence*

Amen.

**Sermon** “ *Jesus’ First Sermon* ” Rev Del Stewart

**Pastoral Prayers**

**The Lord’s Prayer** (Unison)

**Presentation of Our Gifts and Offerings**★ **Offertory Hymn VU 537**

“ *Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands* ”

**Offertory Prayer**★ **Closing Hymn VU 696**

“ *Homeless People, Will You Listen* ”

**Parting Words**

As you depart from this time of worship  
and celebration, go in peace; and know that the  
presence of God reaches beyond this place.  
Leave with faith in the creative powers of life;  
with hope for the future of life in this world;  
and with love for all others who share this life  
with us...

*The singing bowl is sounded three times.*

**Words of Blessing** (Min) (B. Hughes, adapted)

Go as far as your courage takes you,  
for you cannot go beyond the reach of God.

Give as extravagantly as you may,  
for you cannot spend all the riches of God.

Care as lavishly as you are able,  
for you cannot exhaust the love of God.

Keep journeying as a friend,  
for God will always be with you.

**Choral Response VU 298**

“ *When You Walk from Here* ”

Now you are the  
body of Christ and  
individually  
members of it.



*1 Corinthians 12: 27*

***Lectionary Readings for Sunday, January 27***  
~ *Third After Epiphany* ~

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a

Psalm 19  
Luke 4: 14-21

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