

# Westminster United Church

**Order of Worship**

**February 3, 2019**

**Fourth 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** (David Blanchard, adapted)

Fold up the newspaper. Turn off the kettle. Shut off your smart phone. Put away your iPad. Close up your diary already filled with dates and times, and people, and places that claim you. This congregation is ready for you to fill this sacred space, to create its spirit, to generate its warmth, and to kindle its light.

The time has come to for us to worship and celebrate...

*The singing bowl is sounded three times*

**Opening Reflections** (Elizabeth M. Strong, adapted)

Today we celebrate a dream awakening. Today we celebrate with renewed hope in our hearts. Today we act on an audacity of hopes and dreams for the future.

Today we begin the hard work for justice, equity, and compassion in all human relations, for today is a day like no other, and it is ours to shape with vision and action. Let us be together and celebrate a dream awakening...

Jesus Said:

Love each other.

Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

John 13:34-35

Sunday, February 3, 2019

**Prayer of Approach**

Abiding God, on this Sabbath Day, grant us the joy of feeling ourselves a part of your vast magnificence, your all encompassing love.

**May it be so.**

Amen.

**★Opening Hymn VU 567**

*“ Will You Come and Follow Me ”*

**A Conversation**    *The Urgency of Love for Our World*

**★Hymn SGP 40**    *“ This is the Day ”*

**A New Creed VU 918** (unison)

**We are not alone,  
we live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God’s presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus , crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope .**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

*The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968*

*silence*

**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.**

**Scripture Readings**

From the Old Testament and the Pastoral Epistles

*Nehemiah 9:17*

*Whoever does not love  
does not know God,*

*1 John 4: 8*

*for God is love.*

*John 13: 34 & 35 (NRSV)*

From the Early Church

*1 Corinthians 13: 1, 4-8*

**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

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** “*Love Never Falls Away*” Rev Del Stewart

**Solo** Brian Stocks

## 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 509**

“*Here I Am, Lord*”

## Parting Words

The time has come for us to prepare to leave this sacred place where we have worshipped and celebrated together. Return to your homes and daily lives renewed, enlivened, thankful for the life that sustains you, and open to the grace that surrounds and surprises...

*The singing bowl is sounded three times.*

## Words of Blessing

(David Stewart, adapted)

As the snowflake gently settles upon Mother Earth, receive the gift of Peace.

As the winter’s sun rises with light and warmth, receive the gift of Life.

As the wind moves and dances all around the world, receive the gracious gift of the Spirit...

## Choral Response VU 298

“*When You Walk from Here*”

## Postlude

*Lectionary Readings for Sunday, February 10  
~ Fifth after Epiphany ~*

Isaiah 6: 1-8, (9-13)

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Luke 5: 1-11

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