

Westminster United Church

Order of Worship

February 17, 2019

Sixth 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

(M.L. Kownacki, *adapted*)

In our gathering together today
we bow to the sacred in all creation.
So, as we worship and celebrate,
may our spirits be inspired
to fill the world with beauty and wonder,
may our minds seek truth
with humility and openness,
may our hearts be softened to forgive without limit,
and may our imaginations strive to overcome death
and despair with new possibilities...

The singing bowl is sounded three times

Opening Reflections/Prayer

(Lifting Up the Poor, NC Council of Churches, February, 2019)

In a world where we are not always
good stewards in caring for Creation,

**Living Spirit of Jesus, open our hearts
and help us to be a blessing to the world.**

In a world where
a few are living off the abundance of the land,
while the many struggle to make ends meet,

**Living Spirit of Jesus, open our hearts
and help us to be a blessing to your
children in need.**

As globalization makes some wealthy
while others join the ranks of the poor,

**Living Spirit of Jesus, open our hearts
and help us to be a blessing to those who
are facing poverty, especially young children.**

While some have more houses than they need
and others are condemned to homelessness,

**Living Spirit of Jesus, open our hearts
and help us to be a blessing to those who
have no place to lay their heads.**

While statistics show that people in poverty
are more likely to end up in prison than college,

**Living Spirit of Jesus, open our hearts
and help us to be a blessing to those who
need guidance.**

As news reports tell us about people
who are starving,

**Living Spirit of Jesus, open our hearts
and help us to be a blessing to those
who are in need.**

While many of us have taken for granted and
squandered the blessings, gifts and talents
we have been given,

**Living Spirit of Jesus, open our hearts
to be a blessing to those who do not realize
how blessed we truly are.**

In a world filled with so many people
who have lost their way and turned their backs
on the community of faith,

**Living Spirit of Jesus, open our hearts and
help us to be your light that guides them back
to spiritual awareness and the life of faith...**

Silence

May it be so. Amen!

★**Opening Hymn MV 1** “*Let Us Build a House*”

A Conversation *About Loving All Living Things*

★**Hymn VU 217** “*All Creatures of Our God and King*”

A Credo for 21st Century Christians

(Jim Burklo, *adapted*)

We worship and adore God,

**The source, essence, and aim of all things –
the Spirit that enlivens all beings.**

We follow the Way of Jesus who found God
in himself and shared a way for others to
find God in themselves.

**He was born through love,
He lived for love,
He suffered for love,
He died for love,
But love never dies.**

We submit ourselves to the leadings of love
that is God, so that,

**We may be compassionate to all beings,
Live and serve in community with others,
Ask for and offer forgiveness, and
Praise and enjoy God forever.**

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 *Jeremiah 17: 5-10*

From the Gospels *Luke 6: 17-26*

From the “New Testament” *Modern-day Beatitudes*

(Macrina Wiederkehr, in *Seasons of the Heart*, p.78)

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 “ *Plain Talk* ” Rev Del Stewart

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer (Unison)

Presentation of Our Gifts and Offerings

★ **Offertory Hymn VU 542**

“ *We Give You But Your Own* ”

Offertory Prayer

★ **Closing Hymn VU 562** “ *Jesus Calls Us* ”

Parting Words (Sara Campbell, adapted)

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.

Here in this sacred place we have received
fragments of holiness, glimpses of eternity,
brief moments of insight,

**Let us gather them up for the precious gifts
they are and move boldly into the unknown.**

Words of Blessing

May the holy mystery of Creativity-God
be found along the road,
the wonder of the costly love of Jesus
our Companion,
and the Empowering Spirit bless
and keep you always. Amen.

Choral Response VU 298

“ *When You Walk from Here* ”

Postlude

*Lectionary Readings for Sunday, February 24
~ Seventh Sunday after Epiphany ~*

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15

Psalms 37: 1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50

Luke 6: 27-38

Westminster United Church

1680 Dougall Ave at Tecumseh Rd. W., Windsor, Ontario, N8X 1S3

Church Office Phone: 519-258-1471

E-mail: westmin@mnsi.net

Website: www.westminsterunited.org

Facebook: WestminsterUnited Church

Minister: Rev Del Stewart