

Westminster United Church

Order of Worship

March 3, 2019

Transfiguration Sunday

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

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



Entry Into Celebration

(Bronwyn Angela White and Chip Roush, *adapted*)

Come, let us gather again in this sacred
yet ordinary place,
knowing every place is sacred
where we find peace or energy,
where beauty flourishes,
where we share body, mind and heart...

~Silence~

Here in this sacred yet ordinary place
let go of the expectations placed on you by others –
and those expectations you were taught
to place on yourself.

Drop the guilt and shame,
not to shirk responsibility and accountability,
but in honest expectation of the possibility
of forgiveness.

Let go of the thing you said the other day.
Let go of the thing you dread next week.
Be here, in this moment...

The singing bowl is sounded three times

Opening Prayer (Responsive)

Calling God,
you have gathered us in your community.

You have made a place for us.

Let what we say and do here be real for us, honest
to you and prepare us for the life of the world.

May it be so.

★**Opening Hymn VU 374**

“Come and Find the Quiet Centre”

A Conversation

Solo

“I Asked the Lord”

Brian Stocks

An Affirmation and Celebration of Faith

(A Creed for Christians by Jim Burklo, *adapted*)

God is Love,
the Cosmic Creativity present everywhere
and in everything, gently urging all toward the good.

To Love, we raise our awestruck praise.

Jesus embodied the Love that is God.

**He loved the poor, the sick, the unpopular,
even his enemies.**

Jesus loved so completely,
so dangerously, that it cost him his life.
As Christians we aim to serve humbly, as he did,

**Resurrecting his life of Love with others
in community.**

The texts and traditions of Christianity
give voice to our souls,

**So that we may support each other
in our quests for compassion.**

And so we pray for a Holy Spirit of discernment

**To express our faith afresh in new times
and places...**

~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.**

Readings for Transfiguration Sunday

From the Book of Wisdom 6: 1-6 (NRSV)

From the Gospels *Luke 6: 27-35*

From the “Now Testament”

A poem by A.C. Gayling in *The Good Book*, p.15

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

(Bob Holmes/*bhwm*)

Let us open ourselves to the sacred silence
in this place

~Silence~

May the strength of silence support our courage to
endure, and open to us creative channels of the
spirit. Amen.

Sermon *“ The Most Radical Sayings of Jesus ”*

Rev Del Stewart

Prayers for the People

We are people of all ages and stages of life
who enter this safe space, bringing our joys and
burdens and concerns. Now, let each one here
take a few quiet moments to remember and reflect
on the joys and burdens and concerns
they have carried into this place...

Quiet, prayerful time

Let each of us find a window

To see beyond our enclosures.

Let each of us find a door

To open ourselves into new being.

May we be ever mindful of the presence and
present-ness of the sacred among and within us,
and to see new possibilities...

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 506**

“ Take My Life and Let It Be ”

Parting Words

(Philip R. Giles, *adapted*)

On this Transfiguration Sunday,
let us commit ourselves to taking on this week's
life with renewed hope and imagination.
May wisdom show itself in our acts of understanding
and deeds of compassion...

The singing bowl is sounded three times.

Words of Blessing

(Andrew Pakula, *adapted*)

As you prepare to leave this sacred space
pack away a piece of this church in your heart.
Wrap it carefully like a precious gem.
Carry it with you through the
joys and sorrows of your days.
Let its gentle glow strengthen you, warm you,
and remind you of all that is good and true
until you gather here again in this place of love...

Choral Response VU 298

“ When You Walk from Here ”

Postlude