

Westminster United Church

Order of Worship



March 17, 2019

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

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

Entry into Lenten Celebration

(Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, wsj, *adapted*)

In hope, in longing,

We're glad to come together.

In trust, in community,

We're glad to come together.

In many moods, in many shapes and sizes,

We're glad to come together.

In peace, in joy,

**We're glad to come together
in this Lenten Season.**

Quiet Reflection

An Act of Awareness for Lent (C.O. Dame, *adapted*)

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 our faith...

The singing bowl is sounded three times...

Opening Prayer (Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer/wsj, *adapted*)

Remind us, O Spirit,

Life is worth living.

Remind us, O Creativity,

The struggle for justice is worth undertaking.

Remind us, O Compassion,

Love and action are one.

May it be so. Amen.

★Opening Hymn VU 264

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

A Conversation

"Somewhere, Someone" (Binkley and McKeel/jke)

The kingdom of love is coming because

Somewhere,

someone is kind when others are unkind,

Somewhere,

someone shares with another in need,

Somewhere,

someone refuses to hate, while others hate,

Somewhere,

someone is patient – and waits in love,

Somewhere, someone returns good for evil,

Somewhere, someone serves another, in love,

Somewhere, someone is calm in a storm,

Somewhere, someone is loving everybody.

Is that someone you?

★Hymn MVU 78

"God Weeps"

A Celebration of Our Lenten Faith

(Dorothy McRae-McMahon [plpm], *adapted*)

We celebrate our God

**Who is not afraid of our minds
with all their questions,
and all their doubting, searching for truth.**

We celebrate our God

**Who knows and loves our deepest hearts,
whose compassion is always
greater than ours,
so that the measure of our kindness
is always less than that of God.**

We celebrate our God

**Who engages our souls,
linking us with the mystery of the universe,
the endlessness of eternity,
yet is as close to us in our beings
as a parent with a child...**

Moments of Quiet Contemplation...

Sharing the Peace

May a heart of peace rest with you.

And also with you.

Choral Response MV 18

(sung twice)

“ Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary ”

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

READINGS FOR THE 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

From the Gospels *Luke 13: 31-35*

From the 'New Testament'

“Our True Home” by Thich Nhat Hanh
[in Life Prayers, p. 367]

“Torn Shirt” by Linda Jones
[in Let Justice Roll Down, p. 75]

Reflections on Today's Readings

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

**May these seeds of truth and wisdom
be planted in the fertile soil
of our imaginations....**

Choral Response MV 79

(refrain only)

“ Spirit, Open My Heart ”

**Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.**

Centering Silence

Life is full of mysteries. So, while we are here in
this sacred place, let us open ourselves to
contemplating the Holy Mystery we have named
“God”. But let us never confine our contemplation
to this building alone.

**May we delve into contemplating that
Holy Mystery here, but find it everywhere...**

Silence

May we be enfolded in the depths of love –
renewed...refreshed...restored...and saturate
with unending peace.

Amen and Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Del Stewart

*“ Re-Imagining Lent:
Letting Go of the Untenable ”*

Prayers of the People

God of Loving Compassion, we have come into this
sacred place bringing our joys and concerns, and
in this time of silent prayer we offer up our joys and
celebrations, our griefs and concerns...

Silent Prayers

Holy God, as you have touched us

May we touch others with your love in us.

Silent Prayers

We pray for ourselves, for those named or
remembered, and in solidarity with those who
do not have the freedom to express their concerns
and celebrations for fear of discrimination or
condemnation.

Silent Prayers

In all our joys and in all our concerns, may we be
ever mindful of the presence of The Sacred among
us, and see new possibilities for our lives,
our church and the world...

The Lord's Prayer (unison)**Presentation of Our Gifts and Offerings**★**Offertory Hymn VU 542**

“ We Give You But Your Own ”

Offertory Prayer (unison)

**Compassionate God,
may we serve you night and day,
wherever we are, in all we do. Amen.**

★**Closing Hymn VU 658**

“ O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go ”

★**Parting Words**

(Gary Kowalski, *adapted*)

As we prepare to depart from this sacred place
let us resolve to embrace the wonder of this week
with expectation and imagination,
with faith to face our challenges,
with love that casts out fear,
with rejoicing for the gift of today,
and with hope to trust tomorrow...

The singing bowl is sounded three times

★**Words of Blessing**

(Dorothy McRae-McMahon, *adapted*)

Go in courage and celebration!
May all the faces of the Holy God
be turned toward you in love.
May the Cosmos, and the Earth itself,
speak to you of its creativity.
And may who we are, each and all,
be honoured in our authentic journeys...

★Choral Response VU 148

(sung twice)

“ Jesus, Remember Me ”

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

Musical Postlude



Lectionary Readings for Sunday, March 24
~ Third Sunday in Lent ~

Isaiah 55: 1-9

Psalm 63: 1-8

1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

Luke 13: 1-9

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