

Westminster United Church

Order of Worship

Sunday, May 19, 2019

The 5th Sunday of Easter Season



Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

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

Entry into Worship and Celebration

(Rex. A.E. Hunt, Easter C, 19.5.19, adapted)

In the Spirit of God who shares life with us,
In the Spirit of God who shares humanity with us,
In the Spirit of God who unsettles and inspires us,
let us quietly prepare our hearts and minds
for this time of worship and celebration...

Quiet Reflection

An Act of Awareness

(Rabbi Rami M. Shapiro/ep, adapted)

Marvel at life!
Strive to know its ways.
Seek wisdom and truth,
the gateways to life's mysteries.
Wondrous indeed is life...

The singing bowl is sounded three times

Opening Sentences

(Rex. A.E. Hunt, Easter C, 19.5.19, adapted)

Be in love with life,
and so become friends and partners with God.

Now is the time to live a new life
in balance with the Spirit of Life,
and with the Earth.

★Opening Hymn VU 603

"In Loving Partnership We Come"

★Opening Prayer

(M.S. Milner, adapted)

Spirit of Life, we gather grateful for the
companionship of hearts and minds,

Seeking to speak the truth in love.

We gather grateful for our heritage,
for the women and men before us

**Whose prophetic words and deeds
make possible our dreams and our insights.**

And we gather grateful for the gift of life itself,
mindful that to respect life means
to celebrate what life is

And to insist on what it can become.

May it be so. Amen.

A Conversation

★Hymn VU 602 *"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"*

A Creed of Love

(Kurt Struckmeyer,
ProgressiveChristianity.org, 2014, adapted)

We believe in the hidden God of Love,
In the Spirit of love and compassion
found at the breadth and depth
of every human life.

Here and now, Spirit of Life and Love.

We believe in the vision of Jesus:
The reigning of God on earth,
found where people and societies
are governed by the rule of love.

Here and now, Spirit of Life and Love.

We believe in the Way of Jesus:
a love for God and neighbour,
a love for stranger and enemy,
a love for outcast and alien.

Here and now, Spirit of Life and Love.

We believe in the abundant life of Jesus:
A life of acceptance, inclusion, and forgiveness;
a life of equality, generosity, and sharing;
a life of compassion, service, and non-violence.

Create us anew, Spirit of Life and Love.

We believe that Jesus modeled the godly life:
healing the sick and serving the poor,
seeking dignity and equality for all people,
and calling for shared wealth and economic justice.
For this he was condemned and crucified
by those who serve the forces of domination
in every time and place.

Create us anew, Spirit of Life and Love.

We believe that though he died
the Spirit of Jesus lives on
among those who strive for peace and justice
and work to create a better world.

**May the Light of Life and Love shine brightly,
especially in dark places.**

In the name of Jesus, and in the name of Love,
We commit ourselves to care for others,

to break down the barriers that separate us,
and to seek justice and peace in the world.

**May the light of life and love shine brightly,
especially in dark places...**

Moments of Quiet Contemplation

Sharing of the Peace

May a heart of peace rest with you.

And also with you.



Choral Response MVU 31 “Pure Love” (sung twice)

Readings for the Fifth Sunday in Easter

From the Gospels John 13:31-35

From the Early Church Revelation 21:1-6

From the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) **VU 871**
Psalm 148 (Responsive)

From the ‘Now Testament’

“O Source of Life and Love” by Bruce Southworth

Reflections on Today’s Readings

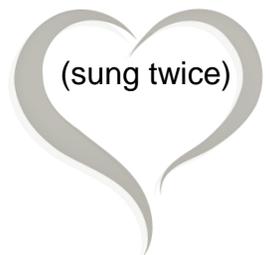
May these readings for the Easter Season
fire our imaginations, inspire new insights,
renew our hope, restore our faith,

**And lead us in the way of justice
and loving compassion...**

Choral Response MVU 21

“Open Our Hearts”

(sung twice)



Centering Silence

Let us now take a few quiet moments
to become centered...

Quiet Moments

Remember these words:

“To love is to recognize yourself in another”.

Amen.

Sermon

Rev Del Stewart

“ Love in This New Era of Hate ”

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 601

“ The Church of Christ in Every Age ”

Parting Words

(Robert Halsey/vv, adapted)

The time has come for us to prepare to leave
this place of worship and celebration.

As you depart remember...

The sacred is everywhere,

At the heart of everything...

That was, or is, or is-to-be.

Remember too, it isn’t what one says
but in what one does,
that we discover where the sacred is,

**And the sacred is always marked by
peace and love.**

The singing bowl is sounded three times

Words of Blessing

(L. Wilson/cw, adapted)

The blessing of the God of Sarah and Hagar,
as of Abraham,

The blessing of the Son, born of the woman Mary...

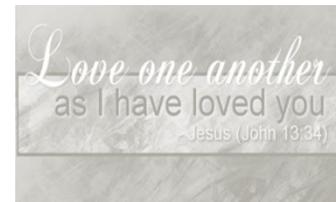
The blessing of the Holy Spirit who broods over us
as a mother hen broods over her children,

Be with you all...

Choral Response MVU 214

“ May God’s Sheltering Wings ”

Postlude



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