



# ***Westminster United Church***

## **Worship Service for January 14, 2018**

### **Epiphany 1/We Sing Thanksgiving**

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Jan Stevenson

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come and give thanks to God!

**ALL: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Let the people of (church name), say,

**ALL: "God's steadfast love endures forever."**

One: Let all of creation proclaim,

**ALL: "God's steadfast love endures forever."**

One: When we cry out to God in times of trouble,

**ALL: we are confident that better times lie ahead.**

One: Therefore, why live in fear or worry about the future?

**ALL: Christ is always at our side.**

One: Why live with guilt or regret about the past?

**ALL: There is forgiveness and a new day to begin.**

One: We start today, as we hope to begin every day,

**ALL: with songs of gratitude and thanksgiving.**

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: We light our Christ candle symbolizing the start of a new day;

that Christ, the Light of the World, permeates this time;

and that in gathering together Christ's Light has been given body.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

#### ✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE/CHORAL OPENING PRAYER

Loving God may this time be your glory.

Loving God may this time be our growth.

Loving God be with us here in this moment

For it is when we need you most.

Loving God bring your blessing to this service,

Open hearts, open minds, open souls.

Infuse us now with your light and love.

Make us one so we are whole.

#### SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us share a sign of peace with each other.

#### ✠OPENING HYMN: "***Come, Ye Thankful People Come***" (VU 516)

#### PRAYER OF APPROACH, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Creator, we are grateful for this opportunity

to remember our blessings

and to be reminded to embrace them all with thanks.

We admit that we have at times taken them for granted.

We have made mistakes and done wrong things

that have jeopardized these good things and our appreciation of them.

We are awed by the generosity of your love and forgiveness

and your encouragement to concentrate on moving forward,

offering similar love and generosity to ourselves and others.

We will need your help, though, in sorting out our thoughts,

to look back with gratitude but not regret or guilt,

and to look forward to the future with hope rather than anxiety.

In Jesus' life, and the parables he shared,

his focus was not on people's pasts,  
but on the new starts they could make in every moment.  
Therefore, help us to concentrate first and foremost  
on celebrating the blessings and opportunities of the day. Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAYER: "**Christ, Within Us Hidden**" (MV 162, vs 1 &3)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response after each prayer:

One: God of Love

**ALL: Hear Our Prayer**

HYMN: THE LORD'S PRAYER (vu 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**ALL: We especially wish to be attentive, O God, to the scriptures. You await us there with a feast like the prodigal son's father, whether we have been lost or always closely dedicated to you. We look forward to the table you will set before us today. Amen.**

BIBLICAL NOTES:

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 28:10-22

ANTHEM: "**We Are One**"

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 2:6-14

CHORAL RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURES: "**I Know Your Word**" (MV 108)

SERMON:

†HYMN: "**All The Way My Savior Leads Me**" (VU 635)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **Fresh Start**

LIFE & WORK (Announcements)

OFFERTORY

†DOXOLOGY: "**Grant Us, God, The Grace**" (VU 540)

†DEDICATION

**All: Loving God, who gave us all of creation,  
help us to remember that we are  
only the caretakers of your generosity.  
We dedicate these gifts, and the givers,  
to your coming kin-dom. Amen.**

A NEW CREED (VU 918)

†CLOSING HYMN: "**Forth in Your Name, O Christ**" (VU 416)

COMMISSIONING

It all starts now. The day awaits.  
Let each sight and sound,  
every interaction and conversation,  
be an opportunity to give thanks.

†SENDING FORTH HYMN "**Go Make a Difference**" (MV 209, chorus only)

BENEDICTION

May you experience God rushing toward you with love.  
May you share the banquet set for you with your brother, Jesus,  
and then be inspired to give thanks and share that feast with others. Amen.

CHORAL AMEN: (VU 969)

***Please join us in Memorial Hall for Refreshments and Fellowship***

## *Acknowledgements*

### *Assisting with the Service This Morning*

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<b>Elder-in-Charge:</b>	Murray Bell
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Hayley McKim
<b>Minutes for Mission Reader</b>	Betty Sidlick
<b>Greeters:</b>	Albina Jackson, Linda Kisell
<b>Coffee Hosts:</b>	Betty & John Sidlick
<b>Sound Operator:</b>	Pat Evans
<b>PowerPoint Operator:</b>	Kathy Nielsen



Help us keep the air we share healthy and fragrance-free. The chemicals used in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with asthma, allergies and other medical conditions. Please do not wear perfume, cologne, aftershave and other fragrances.

The Peace Candle is lit as a reminder to Christians to pray for and work for world peace.

Donations at Coffee Time for January are allocated to the Champion Centre.

Thank you to the "Secret Santa" who left treats for us at Christmas Time – from Rev. Chelsea, Rev. Jan, Sara, Cheryl and Chris.

## *Announcements*

Are you interested in learning more about why and how giving of our time, talent and treasure is meaningful to our life of faith? From January 14-February 11, we will be exploring this question through the theme of "We Sing Thanksgiving" in our worship, Sunday School and youth/adult study opportunities. There are two study groups who will be meeting: one on Wednesday mornings at the church during the regular Bible Study time (9:30-11am). The other study group is meeting for five Tuesday evenings at Arlea and Wayne Harper's home at 7pm, on January 16, 23, 30 and February 6 and 13. If you would like to participate in this evening program (and get the house address!) please speak directly to Arlea or Rev. Chelsea - or call the church office at 403-526-5247.

The Sunday School will be making "Stone Soup" on Sunday, January 21.

Annual Reports are due Monday, January 15, 2018. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held during regular worship service on Sunday, February 25, 2018.

Consider experiencing wellness of your body, mind and spirit through Healing Touch. Treatments are available on Fridays at Fifth Avenue Memorial UC. Contact Loy for more information or to book an appointment at (403) 487-1150.