



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for February 18, 2018

Lent 1

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Jan Stevenson

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Gather to remember and share stories of faith;
Rejoice in the goodness of the loving God.

ALL: Before our stories began, there was God; through all our days, God walks with us.

One: Worship the one who gives and sustains life;
Sing praises to the one who is our refuge.

**ALL: There is no place we can go where God is not;
Amid life's terrors, God's promises hold true.**

One: Delight in God, whose protection we enjoy;
Dance with the God, who frees us for new possibilities.

**ALL: We call out to God, expecting to be heard;
We listen knowing there is truth to be received.**

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: "***Throughout These Lenten Days***" (VU 108, vs 1,2)

OPENING PRAYER:'

**ALL: God of history, whose Word is alive in us, write your truth into our lives this day.
Work your signs and wonders in our midst. Show us your salvation. Be present in our
troubles and in our triumphs. Lead us away from bondage to things to do not matter.
Show us the better land you intend for us, where barriers no longer divide and true
community is born. Amen.**

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: "***God, Whose Almighty Word***" (VU 313)

INVITATION TO PRAYER: "***Giver of the Perfect Gift***" (VU 116)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response after each prayer:

One: God of Love

ALL: Hear Our Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**ALL Holy One, open our hearts to hear your words, our spirits to discern your Word to us
today, and our hands to live your Word into being in this time and place. Amen.**

BIBLICAL NOTES:

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 1**

ANTHEM: "***Wade In the Water***"

SCRIPTURE: **John 1:1-5, 10-14**

CHORAL RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURES: "**Wonder and Stare**" (VU 118)

SERMON: "**Words, Word, WORD**"

✠HYMN: "**Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God**" (VU 356)

LIFE & WORK (Announcements)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **Children's Rights**

OFFERTORY

✠DOXOLOGY: "**We Give You But Your Own**" (VU 542)

✠DEDICATION

All: We give thanks, O God, for your word that guides us and your creation that feeds us. Accept, we pray, the gifts of time, talent and treasure that we offer to you as a sign of our thanksgiving. Amen.

A NEW CREED (CHORAL): (VU 918)

✠CLOSING HYMN: "**Blessed Are They**" (VU 896)

✠COMMISSIONING

One: Go from this place alert to God's Word

ALL: We hear the words of Scripture

One: Study with wisdom and awe

ALL: We listen to hear the Word beneath the words.

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: "**I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me Vs 1 & 3**" (VU 575)

✠BENEDICTION:

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 968)

Please join us in Memorial Hall for the UCW Chili Luncheon!!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

<i>Elder-in-Charge:</i>	Jennifer Oster
<i>Scripture Reader</i>	Helen Reid
<i>Minutes for Mission Reader</i>	Dawn Knowles
<i>Greeters:</i>	Arlene Scherer, Linda Kisell
<i>Coffee Hosts:</i>	Albina Jackson
<i>Sound Operator:</i>	Lorenz Fedrau
<i>PowerPoint Operator:</i>	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 February are allocated to the Westminster UCW.

Announcements

The office will be closed Monday, February 19, 2018 for the Family Day Stat Holiday. If you require urgent pastoral care, please call Rev. Jan Stevenson at 403-952-6671.

The 2017 Annual Report is available in the Narthex and on the ramp, if you would like to take on to read. It is also on the church's website, under the Information Tab.

There will be a potluck lunch following the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 25, 2018. The sign-up sheet is in Memorial Hall.

It's Newsletter time again! *I welcome a variety of submissions — on any topic that you think would be of interest to our congregation. Deadline for submissions will be Monday, February 26th. You may send your items electronically to annah@telusplanet.net or drop a copy of your article in my mailbox on the ramp going into the sanctuary. I thank you in advance for your contributions, and I look forward to receiving lots of interesting items!*

— Anna Marie Hancock

It's time to renew your subscription to the Observer Magazine! Please see Jody Davison to renew or cancel your subscription, or to sign up for a subscription. The cost is \$25.00 for 12 issues. If you would like to review a copy before making a decision, editions from previous years are available on the ramp going toward Memorial Hall. You are welcome to take one home with you to review.

The Mission and Outreach Committee invite you to participate in a "**Birthday Bag Campaign**" during the season of Lent. Bring a small birthday bag with a cake mix, icing and candles and leave it in the Food Bank box. We will deliver to be used by families with children with birthdays.

Rev. Jan Stevenson will be facilitating "**Mindful Meditation**" Thursdays from 12:05 to 12:55 pm February 15 through March 22 at Westminster United Church. Take time to be attentive to your spiritual well-being with simplicity, silence and contemplation. Spiritual explorations and group meditation mentored by Dom John Main OSB, originator of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM.org)

World Day of Prayer takes place this year on Friday, March 2. The service will be held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (758 - 8th Street SE) at 7 pm.

2018 LENTEN EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES

Date	Time:	Host congregation	Guest Preacher
Feb 21	7:00 pm	Fifth Avenue Memorial (476 4th Street S.E.)	Rev. Oz Lorentzen
Feb 28	7:00 pm	St. Peter Lutheran (758 8th Street S.E.)	Rev. Jeff Decelle
March 7	7:00 pm	St. John's Presbyterian (504 2nd Street S.E.)	Rev. Dave Pollard
March 14	7:00 pm	Westminster United (101 6th Street S.E.)	Rev. Shane Hein
March 21	7:00 pm	St. Barnabas Anglican (635 4th Street S.E.)	Rev. Chelsea Masterman



MARTIN LUTHER (1483-1546)

by Denver C. Snuffer, Jr.
January 4, 2017

Martin Luther was a Roman Catholic priest who devoutly believed in and practiced his religion. That devotion led to dismay because of the disconnect between the righteous ideals of Christianity and the institutional corruption of his church. When he publicly proclaimed his criticisms, the Catholic clergy reaction ranged from thinking him demonic to thinking him the only correct teacher in the church. 500 years later he is less controversial, and even Catholics respect his contribution to the course of Christian history.

Indulgences were believed to come from an available storehouse of merited blessings earned by the saints, over which the Roman Catholic Church held discretionary authority because of the keys given to St. Peter. The original practice of conferring an Indulgence required acts of devotion or penitence to merit the grant from the Pope. It was later changed to allow for purchase, independent of any penitence or devoted service. By the time Luther confronted the practice it had grown into a wealth-producing market of selling these rights for the living and their dead ancestors, allowing the wealthy to escape accountability for sinful misconduct by purchasing relief.

Luther's revulsion at the sale of Indulgences provoked his written list of 95 charges against the practice. The 95 Theses were made public on Sunday, October 31, 1517. This event, in hindsight, became the milestone from which the Protestant Reformation is dated. We are now in the 500th anniversary year of that event.

Despite the attention given to the 95 Theses, Martin Luther's greatest contribution to the Protestant Reformation was another project: the translation of the Bible into the common German language, making it possible for laymen to learn the content of scripture. The New Testament was published in 1522 and the complete Bible (including the Apocrypha) in 1534. This was the event that made permanent the fracture between Protestants and Roman Catholicism. Once the language of the Bible could be read by the common man, the false traditions, hypocrisy and violation of Jesus' teachings were exposed to view. Those who were most religious were unable to reconcile Catholic conduct with the Biblical canon, and soon the Bible was being translated into the commonly spoken languages of Dutch (1526), French (1530), Polish (1563), Spanish (1569), Czech (1549), and English (1526). Like a stone cut out of the mountain without hands, gathering energy and strength as it rolled forward, Martin Luther set events in motion that forever changed the history of Western Civilization.

The influence of Luther's life on the world cannot be overstated. He began a revolution that a half-millennium later still affects the world culturally, politically, religiously and educationally. He was far more than merely a religious figure. He is one of the few people who have literally changed the world.

Over the next five weeks, Rev. Chelsea Masterman and Rev. Jan Stevenson will explore with you the significance of Martin Luther and his teachings 500 years ago, much of which is still relevant today. The themes for each week were inspired by author Rolf Jacob's "*Preaching the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation*". (www.workingpreacher.org)