



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for January 21, 2018

Epiphany 3/We Sing Thanksgiving
Today's Worship Leader is Chelsea Masterman

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy,

ALL: not only in what is familiar, but also in that which seems foreign.

One: We sing of the Spirit,

ALL: who speaks our prayers of deepest longing and enfolds our concerns and confessions, transforming us and the world.

One: We offer worship,

ALL: as an outpouring of gratitude and awe and a practice of opening ourselves to God's still, small voice of comfort, to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.

One: Through word, music, art, and sacrament, in community and in solitude, God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.

ALL: We sing with trust.

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE

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.

OPENING PRAYER:

One: Inviting and welcoming God,

ALL: We gather this morning, to raise our voices in celebration and thanksgiving for this community. We gather this morning, desiring a closer relationship with our neighbours and with you. We gather this morning, seeking to understand your mission, and our place in it.

One: Creating and revealing God,

ALL: We gather this morning, with hopeful and expectant hearts, knowing that on this day, in this place, here, at Westminster United Church, we will meet you face to face. 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: "**Let Us Build a House**" (MV 1)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(Written by Phil Hobbs, Gathering, A/C/E 2017/18, p 44)*

One: Forgive us, God, for our forgetfulness.

ALL: You know, Gracious One, that we are trying to follow Jesus in the Way. We do care for your world—for neighbours near and far away—but sometimes we are overwhelmed by the needs of so many.

One: Forgive us when we turn from the pain and suffering, blocking it out of our minds.

ALL: Forgive us when we despair that we can make a difference when the need is so great, and we are just one person—just one congregation.

One: Jesus' ministry began with a small group of apostles, expanded to more than 70, and then changed the world.

ALL: Inspire us to see beyond the shadows— to see beyond the pain and suffering. Show us where your Spirit is already at work— show us the ways that we, each and all, can make a difference.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: *(Written by George Allan; Gathering, A/C/E 2017/18, p 44)*

One: God calls. God calls again.

God calls again and again, assuring us of love, mercy, and forgiveness, and inviting us into the kin-dom.
We are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God!

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: God who is always with us, please help us understand the words of scripture this morning. May we receive from these passages a word of truth for our lives. May we discern a call to mission and service in our community. May we understand more fully what it means to be the church in this time and place. Amen

BIBLICAL NOTES:

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139 (VU p. 861)

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:44-47

ANTHEM: "***In This Place***"

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:1-16

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

SERMON: **A Moment of Harmony**

†HYMN: "***Take My Life and Let it Be***" (VU 506)

LIFE & WORK (Announcements)

WHY I GIVE: **Dawn Knowles**

OFFERTORY

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

†DEDICATION

All: God of gift and giftedness, Hear our prayers and receive this offering. In these plates, along with monies given through PAR, is our offering, a reflection of our "glad and generous hearts." By your blessing and our labours may this offering be transformed into food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, clothing for the naked, community for the lonely. And through our ministries may your good news be heard, your peace be felt, and your love be known. Amen!

A NEW CREED (VU 918)

†CLOSING HYMN: "***Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow***" (VU 541)

COMMISSIONING

One: We have come and we have worshipped

ALL: with word and music, prayer and song.

One: We have opened ourselves to God's comfort and God's challenge,

ALL: and we have experienced God's presence in our midst.

One: As we leave this place, we are prepared to celebrate the holy in our midst, to share the Spirit of God with all those we will meet on the road, knowing that God is at work, transforming lives and communities.

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

BENEDICTION

ALL: As we go, may we trust that we are not alone, God is with us. Amen!

CHORAL AMEN: (VU 969)

Please join us in Memorial Hall for Refreshments and Fellowship

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:	Melanie Rattai
Scripture Reader	Marg McCulley
Greeters:	Arlene Scherer, Linda Kisell
Coffee Hosts:	Wayne & Arlea Harper
Sound Operator:	Pat Evans
PowerPoint Operator:	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.

Announcements

The Hat Grannies for Africa, part of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign and the Stephen Lewis Foundation, will be hosting their annual "Fabric, Yarn and More" Sale on Saturday, March 10, 2018. The sale will take place at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 504 - 2nd Street SE, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Donations accepted up to March 1. Please contact Joanie at 403-526-9005 or Judy at 403-527-7090 to arrange for pick up of donations or for more information.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held during regular worship service on Sunday, February 25, 2018. Annual Reports will be available to the congregation on Sunday, February 4, 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.

The Commun-I-Care Callers will be connecting with their list of contact this week (January 21 -27).

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

DAY	TIME	GROUP	LOCATION
Sunday	7:00 pm	Courage To Courage (NA Group)	Dot Wilkinson Room
Tuesday	1:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Lounge
Tuesday	5:30 pm	Brownies/Guides	Allen Hall/Memorial Hall
Wednesday	9:30 am	Bible Study Group	Lounge
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Sparks Group	Allen Hall
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Al Anon Group	Dot Wilkinson Room
Thursday	7:00 pm	Senior Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thursday	8:00 pm	Al Anon Group	Dot Wilkinson Room
Friday	1:00 pm	Hill Seniors	Allen Hall
Saturday	8:00 pm	AA Group	Dot Wilkinson Room

WESTMINSTER OFFICE IS CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

(Open Monday to Thursday 9:00 am -noon and 1:00 - 4:00 pm)

JANUARY 2018 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

DATE	TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Mon. Jan. 22	10:00 am	AHS Community Kitchen	Kitchen
Tues. Jan. 23	1:00 pm	Staff Meeting	Nursery
Tues. Jan. 23	7:00 pm	We Sing Thanksgiving Study Group	Home of Arlea Harper
Sun. Jan 28	10:25 am	Worship Service: Epiphany 4/ Our Church's Mission & Service	Sanctuary
Mon. Jan. 29	10:00 am	AHS Community Kitchen	Kitchen
Tues. Jan. 30	7:00 pm	We Sing Thanksgiving Study Group	Home of Arlea Harper

FEBRUARY 2018 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Thurs Feb. 1	1:00 pm	Worship Services for River Ridge Residents	River Ridge Estates 29 River Ridge Dr NW
Sun. Feb. 4	10:25 am	Worship Service: Epiphany 5 /Living Generously	Sanctuary
Mon. Feb. 5	7:00 pm	PEO Group	Lounge
Mon. Feb. 5	7:00 pm	Property Committee Meeting	Westminster Room
Tues. Feb. 6	7:00 pm	We Sing Thanksgiving Study Group	Home of Arlea Harper
Wed. Feb. 7	10:00 am	Recovery Centre Group	Kitchen
Thurs. Feb. 8	2:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting	Westminster Room
Sun. Feb. 11	10:25 am	Transfiguration Sunday/ Communion Giving Thanks/Modelling Gratitude	Sanctuary
Mon. Feb. 12	12:30 pm	Board of Elders Executive Meeting	Lounge
Tues. Feb. 13	7:00 pm	We Sing Thanksgiving Study Group	Home of Arlea Harper
Tues. Feb. 13 Shrove Tuesday	5:30 pm	Messy Church	Memorial Hall
Wed. Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday	7:00 pm	Lenten Evening Worship Service	Unity Lutheran Church 8 Palliser Place NE
Sun. Feb. 18	10:25 am	Worship Service: Lent 1	Sanctuary
Mon. Feb. 19	Family Day/Office Closed		
Mon. Feb. 19	7:00 pm	PEO Group Meeting	Lounge
Wed. Feb. 21	7:00 pm	Lenten Evening Worship Service	Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church
Sun. Feb. 25	10:25 am	Worship Service: Lent 2/Annual Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
Mon. Feb. 26	10:00 am	AHS Community Kitchen	Kitchen
Wed. Feb. 28	7:00 pm	Lenten Evening Worship Service	St. Peter Lutheran Church 758 8 Street SE

Events and activities are frequently added or changed. Check the calendar on our website (www.westminsteruc.com) for the most current information.