



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for January 28, 2018

Epiphany 4/We Sing Thanksgiving
Today's Worship Leader is Chelsea Masterman

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: The Lord, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God of all of us has declared, "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, I will not leave you."

ALL: The promises of God are true. The story of God is love. The love of God is for all people. Surely God is in this place, just as God has promised. With grateful hearts we come to worship and praise you, God of love.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

The Christ candle reminds us that we are loved.

The Christ candle reminds us that we are never alone.

Will you please rise for the procession of the Christ candle?

✠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:

ALL: O God, we thank you that your love was shown to your people through the ages and most importantly through your son Jesus. Thank you for your promise to be with us in life, in death, and in life beyond death. We know nothing exists that does not find its source in you. And so we gather in this community of faith to share in your dreams for us and for all your people. As you have been with us in the past, be with us now; inspire our worship and our living. 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: "**Come To My Heart**" (VU 661)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

ALL: Creator and creating God, you have searched us and you know us. You know when we are sleeping and when we awake. You discern our thoughts; even before a word is on our lips you know it completely. You know us so completely; you know that which keeps us from being in right relationship with one another and with you. For all of those things, forgive us. For those times when we put fear and insecurity before relationships of love and justice, forgive us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

ALL: We sing thanksgiving to you, compassionate and life-giving God. For you lay your hand upon us and lead us in the way everlasting, forgiven, loved, and set free. 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: Loving God, as we hear your word, may its meaning wash over us like a gentle rain, and may its call to us be as strong as a mighty wind, and may your promises be revealed to us as powerfully as a brilliant sunrise.

BIBLICAL NOTES:

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 28:10-16

ANTHEM: "**A Kyrie For Our Time**" (Guest Musician Julia McClung)

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:1-16

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

SERMON: **Defying Logic**

✠HYMN: "**For the Fruit of All Creation**" (VU 227)

LIFE & WORK (Announcements)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **Celebrating United Church Women** (Video)

OFFERTORY

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

✠DEDICATION

All: With glad and generous hearts we offer the gifts of our labour, our time, and our talent to you, merciful God. May that which we share be transformed by your love so that all might have their daily bread and all may have abundant life. Amen.

A NEW CREED (VU 918)

✠CLOSING HYMN: "**It's a Song of Praise to the Maker**" (VM 30)

✠COMMISSIONING

One: Know that God is with you and will keep you wherever you go, just as God has promised.

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

✠BENEDICTION:

ALL: May the love of God enfold us, the compassion of Christ surround us, and the Holy Spirit empower us, now and forever.

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 969)

Please join us in Memorial Hall for Refreshments and Fellowship

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:

Arlea Harper

Scripture Reader

Marg McCulley

Greeters:

Pat and Stan Bohnet

Coffee Hosts:

Marg McCulley, Linda Kisell

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

January 28 is World Leprosy Day, a day set aside so churches everywhere can raise awareness, prayer and financial support for children and people facing the challenges of this disease. The Leprosy Mission Canada is a project that the Westminster UCW supports through your giving of used stamps. There is a box by the ramp for stamps to be put into. They must be real postage stamps, not prepaid postage markings.

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.

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.

A special "thank you" to Chris White for making the stock for the "Stone Soup", Arlea Harper for assisting with the making of the soup, and all who contributed vegetables, etc last week.

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.

Next Messy Church event Tuesday Feb 13, Shrove Tuesday, 5-7 pm. Come on down, old and young to enjoy crafts, informal worship and pancakes ! See you there!

Everyone is welcome to join us on the Lenten Journey throughout the community. Dates and locations are listed below:

2018 LENTEN EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES

Date	Time:	Host congregation	Guest Preacher
Feb 14 (Ash Wednesday)	7:00 pm	Unity Lutheran (8 Palliser Place N.E.)	Rev. Jeff Lackie
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

"We Sing Thanksgiving" study services continues on Tuesday evenings(7:00) pm at the home of Arlea and Wayne Harper, and on Wednesday mornings (9:30 am) in the Westminster Lounge. You are welcome to attend either session to further explore your personal faith journey.

Rev. Chelsea will be conducting a six week Youth confirmation course starting Tuesday, February 20, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Westminster United Church in the Lounge. The class will be using Jesus 24/7 Youth Course; a witty, accessible guide to the Christian faith from a youth's perspective. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rev. Chelsea Masterman for details. At the end of the classes, we can celebrate whoever feels called to be confirmed on Easter Sunday!

Inviting Generosity

We are thankful for the ministry of Westminster United Church. Next week we will be giving thanks for the ministry of our church and the way it has touched so many lives. You will also have the opportunity to make a commitment so that the important ministries of the church can continue. Next Sunday, Here are some steps to help you make a prayerful and intentional gift to the mission of God's church.

1. Your household income: \$ _____
2. The percentage of your total income you wish to give to God's work: \$ _____ (2% might be considered a starting point).

See the Proportional Giving Chart below to help you gauge the percentage you already give or what the percentage means as a weekly monthly amount.

Proportional Giving Chart

Family Income	Annual		Monthly		Weekly	
	2%	10%	2%	10%	2%	10%
\$10,000	\$200	\$1,000	\$17	\$83	\$4	\$19
\$25,000	\$500	\$2,500	\$42	\$208	\$10	\$48
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$83	\$417	\$19	\$96
\$75,000	\$1,500	\$7,500	\$125	\$625	\$29	\$144
\$100,000	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$167	\$833	\$38	\$192
\$200,000	\$4,000	\$20,000	\$333	\$1,667	\$77	\$385

3. Set your intention (keep for your own record).

It is my/our intention to contribute to the mission of God's church by committing to the following financial support for the 12 months beginning _____:

\$ _____ per week/month to Operating Funds

\$ _____ per week/month to Mission & Service

4. Fill in the Response Card next Sunday.
5. Make a note to check every four or six months to see if you are on track with your intention.

This is a breakdown of our congregation's giving patterns in 2017 . Where are you on the chart? Can you move up one step?

3	gave \$5,000.01 - \$8000 per year
5	gave \$4,000.01 - \$5000 per year
3	gave \$3,000.01 - \$4000 per year
11	gave \$2,000.01 - \$3000 per year
9	gave \$1,500.01 - \$2000 per year
20	gave \$700.01 - \$1000 per year
16	gave \$500.01 - \$700 per year
15	gave \$300.01 - \$500 per year
24	gave \$100.01 - \$300 per year
6	gave \$50.01 - \$100 per year
8	gave \$0.01 - \$50 per year