



## ***Westminster United Church***

**Worship Service for February 4, 2018**

Epiphany 5/We Sing Thanksgiving

Today's Worship Leader is Jan Stevenson

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: God is creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe.

Nothing exists that does not find its source in God.

**ALL: Our first response to God's providence is gratitude.**

One: The earth is God's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

**ALL: Let us worship the God of all creation. We sing thanksgiving.**

### ✠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: Gracious and loving God, in a world where we are taught to hoard and hold back, we**

**come seeking to be generous people. May this time of worship ease our anxiety, satisfy our deepest needs, bring us peace, and renew our spirits. May the experience of your grace touch us so that our hearts will open in ever-flowing thankfulness. Amen.**

CELEBRATIONS (Birthdays, anniversaries, etc.):

### 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 Let Us Sing***" (VU 222)

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**ALL: Generous God, forgive us, for we are a people who want to own, possess, and have dominion over. We create scarcity where there should be abundance. We hoard when we should share; we take when we should give; hold back the best and give the rest. We crave security and certainty; we manage all of our risks instead of living freely in the abundance of God's grace.**

**Giving God, we seek freedom from our acquisitive ways. We want peace rather than anxiety; we desire sufficiency rather than surplus; we want to be a generous people. Out of your gracious nature, forgive us once more. Provide us now with all we need, and help us to know when enough is enough. Amen.**

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: God is a spendthrift of grace, joyfully giving forgiveness freely and abundantly.

**ALL: We are a forgiven people.**

One: 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: As we hear your Word today, O God, please light the path in front of each of us as individuals and all of us as the Body of Christ. Amen.**

BIBLICAL NOTES:

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 26: 1 – 11

ANTHEM: "You Are Mine"

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:1–16

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

SERMON: **God is More than Fair!**

†HYMN: "***Spirit Open My Heart***" (MV 79)

LIFE & WORK (Announcements)

GRATITUDE MOMENT: **Gerald Weiss**

OFFERTORY

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

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS: (Response Cards)

†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: "***Sing a Happy Hallelujah***" (VU 224)

†COMMISSIONING

One: Grateful for God's loving action,

**ALL: we cannot keep from singing.**

One: Creating and seeking relationship, in awe and trust,

**ALL: we witness to Holy Mystery who is Wholly Love.**

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

✠BENEDICTION:

One: Go now with grateful hearts. Go in peace to love and serve God with all your gifts.

**ALL: Amen.**

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 969)

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

### ***Assisting with the Service This Morning***

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<b><i>Elder-in-Charge:</i></b>	Maureen Oster
<b><i>Scripture Reader</i></b>	Hayley McKim
<b><i>Greeters:</i></b>	Linda Kisell
<b><i>Coffee Hosts:</i></b>	Doug & Velma Pearson, Bob & Vicki McCaig
<b><i>Sound Operator:</i></b>	Pat Evans
<b><i>PowerPoint Operator:</i></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.

## ***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.

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 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 11, 2018.

"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.

We are thankful for the ministry of Westminster United Church. Today we are giving thanks for the ministry of our church and the way it has touched so many lives. A response card is included with your bulletin today. You will have an opportunity to present the response card after the offertory today. Members and adherents are encouraged to complete the card, and present it in the sealed envelope provided. All response cards will be given directly to the Treasurer, and all information will be kept confidential.

## The Season of Lent: (February 14 through March 29, 2018)

Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday, peaking during Holy Week with Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter.

Today, Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Many Christians use this period of time for introspection, self-examination, and repentance.

The color used in the sanctuary for most of Lent is purple. This color symbolizes both the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus as well as the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. But purple is also the color of royalty, and so anticipates through the suffering and death of Jesus the coming resurrection and hope of newness that will be celebrated in the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

There are many activities happening at Westminster United and in the community during the season of Lent. The following are just some of the events:

- Westminster United Church kicks off the Lenten season with **Messy Church Pancake Supper** on Tuesday, February 13 (Shrove Tuesday) from 5:00 – 7:00 pm in Memorial Hall. Come on down, old and young to enjoy crafts, informal worship and pancakes !
- Sunday morning worship services will explore the impact that Martin Luther's Reformation had on religion throughout the world during Lent.
- 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. Chelsea Masterman 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!
- 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)



### 2018 LENTEN EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES

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