



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for March 4, 2018

Lent 3

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Chelsea Masterman

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Based on 1 Cor 2:1-2)*

One: The mystery of God is proclaimed best, not in lofty words or superior knowledge or enlightenment;

All: rather, we know God most in Jesus Christ, and Christ crucified.

One: Come, let us worship God.

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: **"Throughout These Lenten Days"** (VU 108, vs 1,4)

OPENING PRAYER: *(Based on 1 Cor 1:30 and Rolf Jacobson's description of the Theology of the Cross, Reformation Worship Series, <https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=4951>)*

All: God, you are the source of our life in Christ Jesus; and Jesus became for us wisdom from You. Today, help us to know You in the suffering of Christ on the cross. Help us to see you at work in our own suffering. Help us to understand that you don't cause the suffering – yet you meet us there to draw us into your love. Amen.

CELEBRATIONS (Birthdays, anniversaries, etc.):

We celebrate with you, we celebrate with you

May God richly bless you, We celebrate with you!

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: **"Jesus Christ Is Waiting"** (VU 117)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God, some of us have a tendency to boast – aloud or in our hearts – about our mighty deeds. We boast about our accomplishments, how we are better than others, the good work we do, our intelligence, our compassion, our earnings, our travels, the things we got away with, the things we caught others doing. We may even boast about how many trials and tribulations we go through. Yet your word reminds us that there is only one thing we ought to boast about: 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.' Forgive us our misplaced boasting, God. Please help us forgive others theirs too. [time for silent reflection]

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last and the Roman Centurian who was watching exclaimed "Truly this man was God's Son!"

All: God's child died in the ultimate gesture of God's love for us. We were forgiven in that moment, we are forgiven now. In this assurance of forgiveness, we are set free and sent out to go and sin no more.

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

✠HYMN: "***O God How We Have Wandered***" (VU 112)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

All: Open our hearts, O God. Through your word, reveal to us the foolishness of this world so that we may receive your wisdom today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2**

ANTHEM: "***God Is Always With Me***"

SCRIPTURE: **Mark 15:33-39**

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

SERMON: "***Finding God the Last Place You Would Look***" (*The Theology of the Cross*)

✠HYMN: "***Take Up Your Cross***" (VU 561)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **Everybody is Like Everybody Else's Family** (*Video*)

LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY

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

✠DEDICATION

All: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer: We give to you our hearts, our treasure, ourselves. Please, use and transform these gifts to bring forth the glory of your realm on earth. Amen.

A NEW CREED (CHORAL): (VU 918)

✠COMMISSIONING (*inspired by 1 Cor 1:18, 27-28*)

One: For the message about the cross is foolishness to some, and the power of God to others.

All: Let us go out into the world, nourished by the message about the cross: that strength is found in weakness, wisdom in folly, and glory in what seems to be the smallest things of the world. May the Holy Spirit heal us in our suffering, and help us extend the grace of God to all we meet.

One: May it be so.

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

✠BENEDICTION:

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 968)

Please join us in Memorial Hall for the Refreshments and Fellowship

Assisting with the Service This Morning

<i>Elder-in-Charge:</i>	Murray Bell
<i>Scripture Reader:</i>	BJ Maddaford
<i>Greeters:</i>	Arlene Scherer
<i>Coffee Hosts:</i>	Marg McCulley
<i>Sound Operator:</i>	
<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

Missing your Upper Room this month? We've found out that there was a glitch in the distribution of the booklets, and all Canadian subscribers were sent only one copy. Our regular order should be here next week. Fifth Avenue Memorial have received their copies, so if you prefer not to wait, pop down and pick one up from FAM.

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank invites you to attend a fund raising banquet on Friday, March 16th, 2018 at 6:00 pm. The banquet will be held at Chinook Village (2801 13th Avenue SE). Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger by supporting international programs to meet immediate food needs, reduce malnutrition, and achieve sustainable food security. Tickets are \$30.00 each, and can be picked up at the Westminster Church office during office hours (9 am – 4 pm, Monday through Thursday).

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.

2018 LENTEN EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES

Date	Time:	Host congregation	Guest Preacher
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



Today's Minute for Mission:

Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries across Canada.

Anticipation builds as the children and youth wait for the muffins they made to bake. Different ages and backgrounds, everyone joins together on this summer day at the London Community Chaplaincy.

"I love the community with the kids. Everybody is like everybody else's family," says summer counsellor Ashley deBakker.

The chaplaincy provides advocacy and support for families who face the challenges of living in poverty in two housing complexes in London, Ontario. The summer programs for children and youth are part of the year-round mix aimed at helping children learn while having fun. Drop-in programs allow children to learn crafts, like making beaded animals, and play cooperative games.

"We teach kids so they don't get left behind in the summertime, so they don't forget what they learned in school," says Jorge Bostamaste, Summer Evening Program Coordinator. He is describing the Summer Reading Buddies program, where children are partnered one-on-one to help improve their reading skills.

Sydney Franzmann, Summer Camp Director, describes Alphabet Soup, a summer program for children in grades 2, 3, and 4 to better their reading: "Like school, but in a fun way."

United Church of Canada Mission & Service support is key for London Community Chaplaincy, says Chaplain Pam Cullen, Executive Director. "It becomes one of our main funders for the year."

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.