



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for March 18, 2018

Lent 5/ The Doctrine of Election

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Chelsea Masterman

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Martin Luther once wrote: "The Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel." So do we call each other to worship, or does God? Perhaps both? Sometimes the call of the Holy Spirit that we hear in the good news of God's love comes through the person who met us at the door, the people we sit next to, the choir, and even the people and creations we encounter through the week.

All: However we heard the call, praise be to Christ for calling us! Let us worship God!

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: "***Throughout These Lenten Days***" (VU 108, vs 1, 6)

OPENING PRAYER:

All: God, you told Abraham and Sarah to move to a new land and you would bless them. They followed your call. We seek to hear you, and to follow your call too. We humbly ask your blessing on our church today. Please be with us in worship and in our weeks and help us recognize your love at work in our lives. 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: "***Mother Earth, Our Mother Birthing***" (MV 39)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

South East Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for Redcliff-Irvine Pastoral Charge & Pastoral Charge Supervisor Jan Stevenson this week.

Response after each prayer:

One: God of Love

ALL: Hear Our Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

All: Sometimes, God, we try to force a relationship with you, or with each other. We try to do it all ourselves. Help us to let go of the need to control and direct our own lives. Help us to listen to your call, and allow that to direct our paths. Help us be open to your grace, and allow it to transform us in your image. And help us realize we are *already* formed in your image, too, and that it is your Holy Spirit who activates the gifts you created in us. May we trust you to guide us as we seek to use those gifts in love, justice, grace and mercy.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: Jesus says: "I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you" – we are loved and forgiven, and called to live out of this place of grace to bear fruit in the world. May it be so.

✠HYMN: "***I Have Called You by Your Name***" (MV 161)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

All: Spirit of Wisdom, please help us hear you calling to us through the words of scripture we read today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: **Genesis 12:1-3**

ANTHEM: "**Faith to Carry On**"

SCRIPTURE: **John 15:13-16**

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

SERMON: "**You Didn't Choose Me, I Chose You!**" (The Doctrine of Election)

†HYMN: "**A Mighty Fortress is Our God**" (VU 262)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **All You Need Is Love!** (Video)

LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY

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

†DEDICATION

All: God please bless the gifts we offer you today, that they might be used to bear fruit that will last. Amen.

A NEW CREED (Choral): (VU 918)

†COMMISSIONING

One: Jesus says:

All: "I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name." May the Holy Spirit guide us in what we ask for. May the fruit we bear give us life and give life to the world. Amen.

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

†BENEDICTION:

One: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord be gracious to you and give you peace. Amen.

†CHORAL AMEN: (VU 968)

Please join us in Memorial Hall for the UCW Hamburger Soup Luncheon

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:

Arlea Harper

Scripture Reader:

Margaret Laing

Greeters:

Ken & Bev Empy

Coffee Hosts:

Linda Kisell

Sound Operator:

Melanie Rattai

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 February are allocated to the Westminster UCW.

Announcements

THINK SPRING!!The Sunday School is once again selling Vesey's Spring Bulbs and Seeds, this year as a fundraiser for Vacation Bible School. Fifth Avenue Memorial, Gordon Memorial and Peace United Churches are also participating in the fundraiser. Catalogues are available on the ramp and on the bulletin board.

There are numerous members of the congregation who are unable to attend church, and the visits from the Pastoral Care Visitation volunteers once every two month is much appreciated by them. If you would be interested in taking on two or three members to visit, please contact Betty Sidlick, Rev. Chelsea Masterman, or the office for details.

The Board of Elders meeting will be held on Monday, March 19, 2018, at 6:00 pm, in the Westminster Room (Sunday School Room downstairs).

The Property Committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 2, 2018 at 7:00 pm, in the Westminster Room.

The Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 1:30 pm, in the Westminster Room.

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.

You are invited to the Peace United Church in Irvine "Spring Supper" (Ham, Sausage, perogies). Sunday, April 8th, 4:30 and 6:00 sittings. There will also be a Bake Sale at the supper. Cost is \$17.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children 6 – 12 years, and free for children under 6 years. Call 403-527-0206 or see Grace Roth for tickets.

2018 LENTEN/HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Date	Time:	Event	Location
March 21	7:00 pm	Evening Lenten Service (Rev. Chelsea Masterman)	St. Barnabas Anglican Church (635 4th Street S.E.)
Thur. March 29	5:15 p	Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Supper and Service	Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church
Fri. March 30	10:00 am	Good Friday Worship Service	Gordon Memorial United Church (Redcliff)
Sat. March 31	7:45 pm	Holy Saturday Vigil	St. Barnabas Anglican Church
Sun. April 1	7:00 am	Sunrise Worship Service	Lion's Park (Redcliff)
Sun. April 1	10:25 am	Easter Worship Service	Westminster United Church

All You Need Is Love!

Our gifts for Mission & Service are making a difference in communities across Canada. Let us hear the impact one community ministry is having. The Jane Finch neighbourhood has been painted as one of the toughest areas of Toronto. While there are many instances of violence, especially rampant gun violence, there is also a lot of love. The community bands together to make a better place for their children, and at the centre is the Jane Finch Community Ministry. The ministry works with partners to encourage youth to discover that there is a brighter future for them beyond joining a gang.



Community Minister Barry Rieder has been at the Jane Finch ministry for over 22 years. He marvels at the privilege of being able to walk with the community, and he shares how he loves being able to see children grow from babies into youth and young adults.

The community ministry invests in youth through literacy programs, scholarships, and advocacy with the Toronto Police Service. One program is the Unity Barbecue. Founded by community member Andrea Tabner, it brings together members of rival gangs and the Toronto police as a way to demonstrate unity in the community.

With 110 nationalities and over 70 mother tongues spoken in the neighbourhood, coming together as a community is often challenging. Through educational programming, gatherings, and advocacy, the Jane Finch Community Ministry offers hope to youth and community members for a better way of life.

We are called to love our neighbours! Your gifts for Mission & Service show that love every day at Jane Finch Community Ministry. Thank you for your ongoing gifts, and if you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith.



“Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”

—Martin Luther