



Westminster United Church
Worship Service for March 3rd, 2019
Transfiguration Sunday
Today's Worship Leader is Sheila McLeod

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: As gentle rain soaks the earth, may God's peace and love fall upon us this day, bringing growth and life.

May it soak into our innermost being through our open ears, our willing hearts and our true intentions. Let us quiet all that makes us anxious and linger in God's presence this morning, that we may be sent out refreshed to carry God's peace to others this afternoon and throughout the coming week. Let us pray:

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: **"Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New" Blows" (MV 115 2X)**

OPENING PRAYER: **All: God, you touch our lives with mystery and hope and we come to this place ready to feel your power working through us. Help us to be open to your Word, and to answer your call among us. In the name of Jesus. Amen.**

CELEBRATIONS:

SHARING THE PEACE:

✠OPENING HYMN **"Let All Things Now Living" (VU 242)**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

All: God of promise and hope, you call us to trust in your way and set before us paths of faithfulness. Sometimes we hesitate to follow you and make changes in our lives. Sometimes our priorities and commitments reflect our personal interests more than your desire for our lives and your world. (Time for quiet reflection and confession).

One: Open our closed ears and stony hearts to you, O God, that we may be free of reluctance and selfishness. Open us to your love and truth, that we may be faithful to you in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: Listen! I have something to say! God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God has compassion for our fears and failures; God stays with us throughout our lives' journeys. We are a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God!

TIME WITH CHILDREN: "**New Life**" by Anishinabe Elder Gladys Taylor of Curve Lake, Ontario. This story is from "Miriam, Mary and Me" a book by Lois Miram Wilson

INVITATION TO PRAYER: "**O, Great Spirit**" (VU 239 2X)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

HYMN: "**The Lord's Prayer**" (VU 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

One: Eternal God, Today we long to hear your holy Word in fresh ways. Open our ears to the call of your voice. Open our eyes to the dawning of a new day. Fill us with anticipation for your future. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 55: 10-13 & 1 Corinthians 15:51-58**

ANTHEM: "**Shine Jesus, Shine**"

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 6: 39-49**

MEDITATION: "**Listen, Accept, Act.**"

†Hymn: "**Spirit, open My Heart**" (MV 79)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: "**Deepening Ministry**"

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

†DOXOLOGY: "**Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands**" (VU 537 vs 2)

†DEDICATION:

One: Through these gifts, O God,

All: may we heed the voice of justice, hear the call to compassion, embrace the way of sharing, and know solidarity with the loving Christ. Amen.

A NEW CREED: **Spoken (VU 918)**

†CLOSING HYMN: "**Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**" (VU 651)

†COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION: **(1 Cor. 15:57-58)**

One: Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, let us be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because we know that in Christ our labour is not in vain. **Amen.**

†CHORAL "Amen": (VU 974)

†SENDING FORTH HYMN:"Let Us, O God, Depart in Peace" (VU 961)

POSTLUDE

Prayer resources for this service adapted from *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada*. Publisher: The United Church Publishing House, copyright @2000. Pages 23, 27, 154, 52, 133, 155, 129 & 50.

Announcements

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.

Update from the Joint Search Committee:

The Joint Search Committee has been tasked to search for the appropriate ministerial candidate, in line with the approved Joint Needs Assessment Report which was approved by the congregation, board and presbytery. We are following the policy and best practices as laid out in Pastoral Relations: Community of Faith (January 2019).

The committee had it's second meeting on Friday February 8th. Our next item is to post our church profile, position summary, and Joint Needs Assessment Report on ChurchHub, which is a web link with United Church of Canada. Once that is completed, then potential ministerial applicants will be able to view our profile and position summary and be able to apply. We hope to have everything posted on ChurchHub at around the time of our church AGM (February 24th). Tentatively the closing date for applications should be around April 12th.

After that we would conduct initial then secondary interviews; then select the candidate and then have a congregational meeting. With all that we are hoping to have a tentative start date for the new Minister as of July 1, which is the start of the pastoral year.

Members of the Joint Search Committee include:

Regional Liaisons:

Reverend Esther Crews

Carole Edmonds

Congregational Representatives:

Cameron Lockerbie (Chair)

Lynnette Burry (Secretary)

Corlaine Gardner

Jennifer Oster

The 2018 Donation Receipts are ready and can be picked up on Sundays or at the church office. Donna Scharf Treasurer

Lenten Mid-Week Services will begin March 6th on Ash Wednesday until April 10th. All services begin at 7 p.m. at the Following Host Congregations:

March 6 (Ash Wednesday)	St. Barnabas Anglican 635 4th Street S.E.	Rev. Dave Pollard
March 13	St. Peter Lutheran 758 8th Street S.E.	Rev. Jeff Lackie
March 20	Fifth Avenue Memorial 476 4th Street S.E.	Rev. Shane Hein
March 27	St. John's Presbyterian 504 2nd Street S.E.	Rev. Jeff Decelle
April 3	Westminster United 101 6th Street S.E.	Rev. Oz Lorentzen
April 10	Unity Lutheran 599 12th Street N.W.	Rev. Kristy Reimers- Loader

Living the Questions 2.0 Progressive Faith Study has resumed at Fifth Avenue United. Please join us for any or all sessions!

Wednesday Feb. 27, and Tuesday March 5, 12, 19, and 26, from 7:00 to 8:30 in the Memorial-Salem Room (library/lounge).

Each weekly 20-minute DVD features several of 30 interesting and diverse religion leaders on a specific theme, followed by discussion.

Drinks and snacks are also available. Sample topics are "Evil, Suffering & A God of Love" (Feb 27) and "Honoring Creation" (March 26),

Changes to Food Bank Sunday: you will have the opportunity to donate cash to the local Food Bank as an alternative to bringing in food donations. A separate envelope will be passed around during the offering and if you wish you may add any amount and it will be forwarded to the Food Bank on your behalf.

"The Hat Grannies for Africa" are having their annual yarn and fabric sale on Saturday, March 9th at St. John's Presbyterian Church between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 pm Admission is \$1.00. If you are interested in volunteering or want more information, please call Kathy @ (403) 928-2135 or Sheila @ (403) 580 - 7715

Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner and Dessert Auction Fundraiser on March 22nd at 6pm. Tickets are \$25.00 with a \$20.00 tax receipt and are available at the FAM office(403)-526-2237

Celebrate Music VI will be held on April 14th hosted by Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church at 7pm. Tickets are \$20.00 and are available from Stone Furs, FAM office, Proceeds go to the Tower Restoration Fund.

March and April editions of "The Upper Room" are available on the ramp.

Please DO NOT use the 2018 offering envelopes. Some numbers had to be changed, so you may have a new number. You can still sign up for PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) or ask for envelopes. With both these methods, you receive a Charitable Donation Receipt. Thanks. Contact Donna Scharf by e-mail rdscharf@shaw.ca or phone 403-526-1555.

Donations at Coffee Time for March are allocated to Haitian Coffee

Please join us in Memorial Hall for Chili lunch hosted by the UCW and fellowship!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

<i>Elder-in-Charge:</i>	Linda Kisell
<i>Scripture Reader:</i>	Pat Evans
<i>Greeters:</i>	Arlea & Wayne Harper
<i>Coffee Hosts</i>	Betty Sidlick & Sharon Clay
<i>Minutes For Mission</i>	Sharon Clay
<i>Sound</i>	Hayley McKim
<i>PowerPoint Operator</i>	Kathy Nielsen
<i>Wheelchair Lift Operator</i>	Pat Evans