

Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday Nov. 5, 2017

A celebration of Westminster's 125th Anniversary

With guest presenter, Devon Clunis



The 125th Anniversary - Our Year of Celebrations

On January 8, 2017, we began our anniversary year with a nod to the past. Our “Kick-Off” service honoured our congregation’s long history, and also acknowledged some of the profound ways language and worship has changed and evolved over the years, by using prayers from “*The Book of Common Order of the United Church of Canada*” (1932) and the introit, doxology and choral responses from “*The Hymnary of the United Church of Canada*” (1930). The sermon included a powerpoint presentation that highlighted the history of Winnipeg - as well as Westminster Church - at the turn of the 19th century, as we remembered the story of how this congregation grew, dreamed, dared to imagine and then eventually built this beautiful building we are still in today. And we concluded with the question, what are we daring to dream and build today?

This morning marks the joyous conclusion of our 125th anniversary year, and is a nod to our present and future. In this morning’s worship service, we celebrate who we are as a congregation and who we are daring to become - as we continue forward - with open-hearts, courage and compassion, faith, hope and joy - wherever the Spirit is calling us in the next 125 years.

This morning we also welcome Devon Clunis, retired Winnipeg Chief of Police, who has come to share with us his message that we can all make a difference in our community.

Words printed in **bold type** are to be spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

Christ Candle is lit

Welcome and News

Introit MV 1 Let Us Build a House vs. 5

**Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard, and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words with-in the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

Words and Music: Marty Haugen, © GIA Publications 1994. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-720863

Call to Worship/Approach(Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise, all the earth.
Worship your God with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.
Know that your God has made you.
Know its to God you belong

**Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and these courts with praise.**

Give thanks to God, bless the holy Name.

**God's steadfast love endures forever,
and God's faithfulness to all generations.**

On this morning of celebration, let us worship together with thanksgiving, with joy, and in faith and hope. Amen!

Hymn VU 559 **Come, O Fount of Every Blessing**

Prayer of Confession

God of us all, you have called your people to love and serve and to celebrate as your church. Some whom you called envisioned a church in this place, right here on this corner of Winnipeg. They took risks and made the sacrifices to see that become a reality. Throughout these last 125 years this church and its people have tried to be a symbol of loving community, of warmth and welcome, outreach and compassion, seeking to be followers in your Way.

This morning as we sing, pray, rejoice, listen, and offer our thanksgiving for all that has been, all that is, and all that is yet to be, may we your people be awakened and encouraged to continue to be your church in the world. In the midst of our rejoicing we acknowledge too that we have not always shown your love, acceptance, and compassion in our actions toward others or even towards ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. As we continue this journey of faith, lead us on the path to wholeness and peace. In Jesus name we pray Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection.

Lord, have mercy.

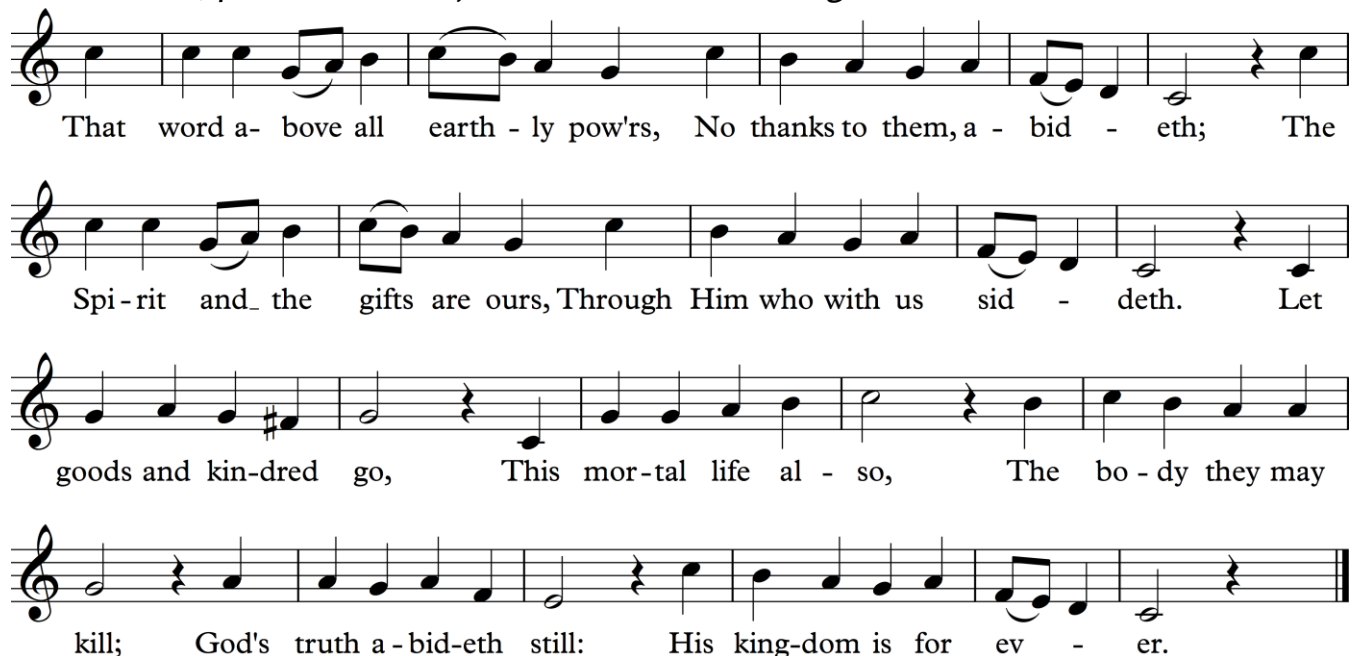
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE

Anthem A Mighty Fortress is Our God arr. Duane Funderburk

On Nathan's cue, please stand to join with the choir to sing:



That word a-bove all earth - ly pow'rs, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth; The
Spi-rit and the gifts are ours, Through Him who with us sid - deth. Let
goods and kin-dred go, This mor-tal life al - so, The bo - dy they may
kill; God's truth a - bid-eth still: His king-dom is for ev - er.

Words of Greeting - from the Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell,
Moderator of the United Church of Canada

Statement of Faith (VU 918)

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Scripture Reading: Charles Huband

Matthew 23: 1 - 12

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 595 We Are Pilgrims

Message*Devon Clunis, guest presenter*.....

Solo I Know that my Redeemer Liveth by G.F. Handel, from MESSIAH
given by guest soloist, Sarah Jo Kirsch

Collection of Offerings

After the offering is introduced, an offertory will be played and the collection taken. Thank you for your gift, whether given today or through other means of supporting ministry at Westminster Church.

Offertory

Offering Doxology MV 42 Praise God for this Holy Ground Vs 1

**Praise God for this holy ground,
place and people, sight and sound.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal.**

Prayer of Dedication

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (*sung, VU 959*)

Hymn VU 705 For All the Saints

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response VU 639 One More Step

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

Words and Music by Sydney Carter , © Hope Publishing Company 1971. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-720863

Organ Postlude *If departing before the end of the postlude, please do so quietly for the benefit of those remaining to enjoy the music.*

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, November 12 – from Gathering

Twenty-third after Pentecost - Proper 27

Sunday after Remembrance Day

Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25 - Joshua challenges the people to choose God.

Psalm 78:1–7 (VU p. 792 Part One) - **We will teach the next generations.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 - God will raise the dead.

Matthew 25:1–13 - Parable of the 10 bridesmaids and the lamps.

To Ponder - What is spiritual preparedness? Do you feel spiritually prepared?