

Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community

Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018

4th Sunday after Epiphany

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

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

As we gather to worship, we begin with the lighting the Christ Candle, and we remember these words from the gospel of John –

**“The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness cannot overcome it.”**

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.

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Call to Worship (unison)

We come as seekers, with questions, doubts and uncertainties

We come as faithful, exploring all that it may mean to have faith

We come to pray, with sighs too deep for words.

We come to sing, to reflect, to listen, to ponder... and simply to be.

We come as we are, bringing all we are ... here to worship.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Approach

Hymn VU 220 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Prayer of Reflection/Confession (unison)*

**Gracious God, we do not know what burdens people carry,
what challenges they wrestle with silently,
what triumph it may be for them to appear normal, to show up.**

**Give us compassion for each person,
aware that challenging spirits haunt us all.**

**Give us grace to bless and not to judge,
to heal and not to hurt.**

**We do not know another's inner story,
its landscape, its dark places.**

**We only know your tremendous love
for each of us, and equally for them.**

Help us remember and live that love...

Moment of silence for personal reflection.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE

Anthem

Laudate Dominum

by Gilbert M. Martin

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Scripture Reading: Shannon MacFarlane

Mark 1: 21-28

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

Thanks be to God.

Hymn MV 153

Body, Mind and Spirit

Message

Solo

I Will Lift Mine Eyes

by A. Dvorak

given by Fred Simpson

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 49 When We Seek Language

**When we seek language to praise you, O God,
all we can utter seems stale, tame, or odd.
Tongue-tied and word-lost, we struggle to find
Phrases that slight neither heart, soul, nor mind:
Infinite intimate unbounded friend,
cosmic companion who loves without end,
Nearer than heartbeat, more subtle than breath,
Keener than insight, and stronger than death.**

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Prayer of Dedication

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**Our father/mother, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn VU 608 Dear God, Who Loves all Humankind *see next page*

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response VU 93 Vs. 1 When Heaven's Bright with Mystery

**When heaven's bright with mystery
and science searches nature's art,
When all creation yearns for peace
and hope sinks deep in human hearts,
appear to us, O Holy Light,
lift from our eyes the shades of night.**

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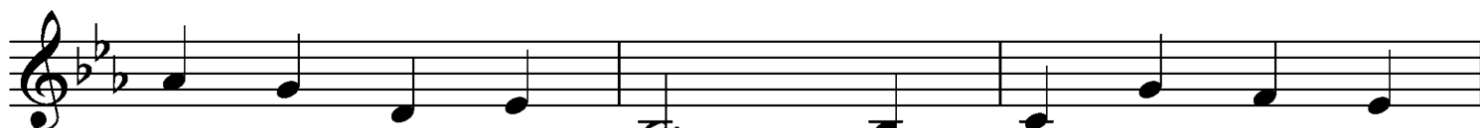
Organ Postlude *If departing before the end of the postlude, please do so quietly for the benefit of those remaining to enjoy the music.*

* c) Steve Garnaas-Holmes, posted Jan. 25, 2018 www.unfoldinglight.com (adapted).

VU 608 Dear God, Who Loves all Humankind



1. Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, for -
 2. In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be -
 3. O Sab - bath rest by Ga - li - lee, o
 4. Drop Thy still dews of qui - et - ness, till
 5. Breathe through the heats of our de - sire thy



give our foo - lish ways; re - clothe us in our
 side the Sy - rian sea, the gra - cious cal - ling
 calm of hills a - bove, where Je - sus knelt to
 all our stri - vings cease; take from our souls the
 cool - ness and Thy balm; let sense be dumb, let



right - ful mind, in pu - rer lives thy ser - vice find, in
 of the Lord, let us, like them, with - out a word, rise
 share with Thee the si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in -
 strain and stress, and let our or - dered lives con - fess the
 flesh re - tire; speak through the earth - quake, wind, and fire, o



dee - per reve - rance praise, in dee - per reve - rance praise.
 up and fol - low Thee, rise up and fol - low Thee.
 - ter - pre - ted by love, in - ter - pre - ted by love!
 beau - ty of Thy peace, the beau - ty of Thy peace.
 still, small voice of calm, O still small voice of calm!

Lectionary Readings

January 28 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Worship materials for January 28 to February 11 were contributed by John Moses and Sarah Keddy, Aylesford U.C., Aylesford, N.S.

Deuteronomy 18:15–20 - God will raise up a prophet after Moses.

Psalms 111 (VU p. 833) - The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

1 Corinthians 8:1–13 - Concerning food offered to idols.

Mark 1:21–28 - A man with an unclean spirit is healed in Capernaum.

To Ponder

Have you ever been a stumbling block or an impediment to another's faith? How? Have you ever helped someone find faith or grow in faith? How?