



Westminster United Church
Worship Service for October 27th, 2019
Today's Worship Leader is Pastor Sheila McCleod

"We are a faith community building relationships with God, all people, and our world."

CALL TO WORSHIP:

God has given us this beautiful earth, all that grows, all that lives upon it.

Thanks be to God.

God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

Thanks be to God.

God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving, and praise.

†PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: : **"Come Touch our Hearts" (MV 12 vss 1&5)**

OPENING PRAYER:

In joy and in trouble, help us, gracious God, to trust your love, serve your purpose, and praise your name. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

†OPENING HYMN: **"How Firm a Foundation" (VU 660)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **(A Prayer from the 16th Century)**

**Almighty God, the One who sent our Lord Jesus Christ to live among us, Maker of all things, Judge of all people:
we confess the sins we have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against your Divine Majesty.**

We repent of our mis-doings; the remembrance of them is a grief to us; the burden of them is great.

(Time for Silent Prayers of Repentance)

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful One; for Jesus Christ's sake forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve and please you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Praise and Thanksgiving be to our God. Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAYER: **"Open Our Hearts" (MV 21 2X)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

"The Lord's Prayer" (Spoken)

BLESSING OF PRAYER SHAWLS:

May God's grace be upon these shawls: warming, comforting, embracing. May they be reminders of a safe and secure hug: safe and secure like the Love of God.

May these shawls remind both those who knit them and those who will receive them we are "knit together" in a family where love flows from one generation to the next.

May the warm feel and beautiful appearance of these shawls delight and lighten heavy hearts, bringing smiles and joy, hope and peace.

May they encourage us here at Westminster United to grow in our willingness and ability to comfort: to listen and to share strength, patience and joy.

May all those who wear these warming garments feel the loving arms of Christ encircling them. **Amen**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, the words you speak have power: power to create, power to disturb, power to heal. Help us to hear you Word for us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Joel 2:23-32

One: This is the witness of Israel.

ALL: Thanks be to God for the Word.

Psalm 65 **VU 782**

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be performed.

You give heed to prayer; to you all mortals shall come.

The burden of our sins is too great for us,

but you will purge them away. R

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;

Blessed are the people you choose
and bring to dwell in your courts.

**We shall be filled with the blessings of your house,
your holy temple.**

With awesome deeds you answer our prayers for deliverance,
O God our saviour -

**you that are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the far-off seas.**

By your strength you make fast the mountains,
and gird yourself round with power.

You still the raging of the seas,

and the roaring of the waves, the tumult of the peoples.

Those who dwell at earth's farthest bounds are awed
by your wonders;

**the gateways of both morning and evening
shout for joy. R**

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;

You visit the earth and water it,
you make it very fruitful.

The waters of heaven brim over their banks,
providing us with grain,

**for so you have prepared the land,
drenching its furrows, settling its ridges,
softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.**

You crown the year with goodness,

and your paths overflow with plenty.

The pastures of the wilderness abound with grass,

and the hills are girded with joy.

The fields are clothed with sheep;

**the valleys are decked with wheat,
so that they shout and sing for joy. R**

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;

One: This is the witness of the ancient song-writers

All: Thanks be to God.

2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18

One: This is the good news of Jesus Christ

All: Thanks be to God

Anthem **"Because He Lives"**(Performed by the Westminstrels)

Luke 18:9-14

One: This is the good news of Jesus Christ

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON: **"Come See What God Has Done"**

†HYMN: **"I Sing the Mighty Power of God" (VU 231)**

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **"Youth Pilgrims"**

LIFE AND WORK:

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Music and laughter, hands and minds, curiosity and compassion: what an abundance of gifts God has given us! All these gifts are symbolized in our offering. Let us commit ourselves in service as we worship God with our offering. The offering will be received.

OFFERTORY: **"Rain Down"**

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

†DEDICATION:

Blessed are you, gracious God: you have given us life and the freedom to be your people in the world.

Blessed are you, gracious God: you have touched our hearts with hope, so we long to see the day of your salvation.

Accept now these gifts we bring.

Enable us to use them for the coming of your new community of justice and peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

†A NEW CREED: **(Sung)**

†CLOSING HYMN: **"We Plough the Field" (VU 520)**

† BENEDICTION:

May the grace of God, deeper than our imagination; the strength of Christ, stronger than our need; and the communion of the Holy Spirit, richer than our togetherness; guide and sustain us today and in all our tomorrows.

‡COMMISSIONING:

And may we go forth remembering who we are and to whom we belong. Amen.

‡CHORAL AMEN (**Spiritual**)

‡SENDING FORTH:

Postlude

Resources of this service adapted from “*Celebrate God’s Presence: A Book of Services for the United Church of Canada*”. Published in the year 2000 by the United Church Publishing House. Pages 22, 25, 40, 52, 54, 45, 47, 51, 71, & 73.

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.

A meeting to hear the report of the Westminster Joint Search Committee, discuss the report, and deal with a motion to approve the report will be held following worship on Sunday, November 3rd, 2019. All Westminster members and adherents are urged to attend.

Sheila McLeod, Regional Pastoral Supervisor.

Set up for the Fall Supper will be on Saturday November 2nd at 1:00 p.m

The November/December Edition of the “Upper Room” is available on the ramp

Hand Chime Choir

We are hoping to put together a group of people interested in learning how to play hand chimes. You don’t have to read music or know much about the hand chimes, but it could be an opportunity to make some music and have some fun!! If you are interested, talk to Anna Marie Hancock and we can determine a time to get together. Looking forward to making music with you all soon!!

Drive a Friend to Church

We are fine tuning our Drive a Friend plan. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Pat Marshall or Jennifer in the church office.

Donations at Coffee Time for during October are allocated to the Haitian Coffee

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:	Marg McCulley
Greeters:	Marg McCulley
Scripture Reader:	Sharon Clay
Minutes for Mission:	Arlea Harper
Coffee Hosts:	Donna Scharf & Linda Kisell
Sound :	Pat Evans
PowerPoint Operator:	Kathy Nielsen
Wheelchair Lift Operator:	Pat Evans

Westminster United Church Fall Supper (Roast Beef)

Sunday, November 3, 2019

5:30 pm

Ticket Prices:

\$18.00 for Adults

\$10.00 for Children ages 6 – 12

(Children under 6 are free)

\$50.00 for Family of four or more

Tickets can be purchased at the Westminster office (101 6 Street SE) during regular office hours (Monday through Thursday 9 am – Noon and 1 pm – 4 pm), at Coffee Time on Sunday in Memorial Hall, or call the office 403-526-5247 for more information.

***On November 3rd, there will be a "Hymn Sing" at Westminster United Church commencing at 4:45 p.m. before the Fall Supper!**