



Westminster United Church
Worship Service for January 12, 2020
Today's Worship Leader is Marg McCulley

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

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Gathering, John Sparks)

We hear you, John, standing on Jordan's bank,
calling for us to repent.

Our lives are easy and comfortable:

we are not certain we want to be politically involved.

We hear you John, standing on Jordan's bank,
spelling out the chaos of your time.

We know the failures of our day and generation

We wonder if we have the courage to respond

We hear John, standing on Jordan's bank
ready to baptize Jesus

We have our established path and pattern,
and we ask ourselves,

"Are we ready to make the changes

that come with discipleship?

In worship, today, may we reflect together
on this question

†PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: **"Will You Come and Follow Me" (VU 567 vs 1&5)**

OPENING PRAYER: (Gathering, Emily Perry)

Compassionate and Loving God, we come to the beginning
Of a new and unknown year.

We feel apprehension, yet are hopeful

That this year will be one where we notice positives
instead of negatives, friendship instead of foes,

**cares and compassion instead of discrimination and indifference.
It is not always easy to turn our lives around
so that we may follow in the footsteps of your son,
yet this is what we long to do, deep in our hearts
may we be strong enough to push aside
the world's values and standards and remember
that we now have the opportunity
to change things, ourselves, our communities, and our world,
because we have you as our support and our strength.
We can make a difference.
We are not alone. We live in God's world.
Thanks be to God. Amen**

SHARING THE PEACE

✠OPENING HYMN: **"Shall We Gather at the River" (VU 710)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Gathering, Robin Wardlaw)

O God, you were a baby once
**and a cruel King tried to stop your love
from coming into the world.**
You were a child once,
**and some people didn't believe that
a child could have wisdom or faith.**
You were a young adult,
**and people wondered at your power
to help things change.**
Now you are here.
**and sometimes we try to stop your love:
Sometimes we doubt your wisdom;
Sometimes we give up on your compassion.**
Hear us as we confess
**the ways we have dishonoured your goodness
in us and others
at different stages of our lives.**

(a moment of silence)

AMEN

INVITATION TO PRAYER: **"Called by the Earth and Sky" (MV 135 vs 4)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

"The Lord's Prayer" (Spoken)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

As we approach the beginning of a new year,
we ask that these words of scripture will reveal
to us your light, love, and salvation,
all that we need for the year to come. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Acts 10: 34-43

One: This is the witness of the Church.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM:

Matthew 3: 13-17

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

ALL: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.

MEDITATION:

†HYMN: **"Jesus Shall Reign" (VU 330)**

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **"Holding Space for Life"**

LIFE AND WORK:

INVITATION TO OFFERING: (Gathering, Jane Doull)

God of Peace, we offer you our gifts,
that peace may come to our troubled world.
Help us to build peace with justice,

wherever our lives touch others

OFFERTORY:

†DOXOLOGY: :**"O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word" (VU 84 vs 3)**

†DEDICATION: (Gathering, Jim McKean)

Love Incarnate

Receive these tokens

of our witness to your love.

May they inspire love in places forgotten.

May they encourage

where confidence had been broken.

And may they be instruments

of good for the world. Amen

†A NEW CREED: **(Sung)**

†CLOSING HYMN: **"Joy to the World" (VU 59)**

†COMMISSIONING: (Gathering, Jeanne Wilson)

As we journey along the Epiphany road with Jesus

May we reach out to others

as Jesus would

and reach to God for strength and guidance.

May the blessings of God the Creator,

Son and Holy Spirit be with each one of us

as we leave this place. Go now in peace.

†CHORAL AMEN **(VU 974)**

†SENDING FORTH: **"Go Tell It on the Mountain" (VU 43)**

Postlude

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.

The Hat Grannies for Africa will be hosting their annual "Fabric, Yarn and More" Sale on Saturday, March 14, 2020. The sale will take place at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 504 - 2nd Street SE, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Donations of fabric, yarn, notions and all manner of supplies used in sewing, quilting, knitting and crocheting are accepted. Please text or call Kathy at 403-928-2135 or Sheila at 403-580-7715 to arrange for pick up of donations or for more information. Since 2006, grandmothers groups across Canada have raised over \$36 million dollars, 90% of which goes to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign (part of the Stephen Lewis Foundation) and is sent directly to community-based organizations run by and for African grandmothers raising their grandchildren.

January/February issues of the "Upper Room" are now available on the upper ramp.

Donations at Coffee Time during November are allocated to Haitian Coffee

Assisting with the Service This Morning

<i>Elder-in-Charge:</i>	Linda Kisell
<i>Greeters:</i>	Bev Empey, Wayne & Arlea Harper
<i>Scripture Reader:</i>	Marg Taylor
<i>Minutes For Mission</i>	Sharon Clay
<i>Coffee Hosts:</i>	John & Betty Sidlick, Doug & Velma Pearson
<i>Sound :</i>	Hayley McKim
<i>PowerPoint Operator:</i>	Pat Marshall
<i>Wheelchair Lift Operator:</i>	Pat Evans