



**Westminster United Church**  
**Worship Service for January 19, 2020**  
Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Dr. Bob Cruickshank

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

CALL TO WORSHIP:

**LEADER:** O Lord, open our lips,

**ALL:** And our mouths shall declare your praise.

**LEADER:** O Lord, open our eyes,

**ALL:** So that we may behold your presence with us.

**LEADER:** O Lord, open our ears,

**ALL:** So that we may hear your call to follow.

**LEADER:** O Lord, open our hearts,

**ALL:** So that we may offer you worship in love.

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

OPENING PRAYER: **(Unison)**

**God, our Creator and Redeemer, your faithfulness endures forever.**

**We give you thanks for the new life you give us in Christ Jesus. You keep calling us to follow him so that we may bring your light and your hope to the world you love.**

**Through your generosity we do not lack any spiritual gift. In you we find strength and courage to face every challenge, until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ arrives.**

**Praise be to you, our God, now and always. Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

†OPENING HYMN: **"Let Us Build a House" (MV 1)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**LEADER:** In gratitude for God's faithfulness, and with honesty about who we are, let us confess to God our sins:

**ALL: Faithful God, you send Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost, before we even begin to understand we have lost our way.**

**We confess that we often choose the next new thing over your gift of new life. We seek love and approval according to the trends of our culture. We rely on our own strength and wit rather than your goodness.**

**Help us to remember our baptism washing over us each day with your promise of renewed love and purpose in Christ Jesus.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rejoice, you people, for God has put a new song in our mouths! God has set our feet upon a rock, making our steps secure. Trust in God's enduring love and mercy. Know this love seeks you out, and offers you forgiveness this day and every day, through Christ our Lord.

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:

Holy God, from age to age you have blessed your people with wisdom. We turn to scripture, seeking learning and insight. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us so that we might hear your wisdom in the words read and proclaimed this day.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalms 40: 1-11 (VU 764)

**You put a new song in my mouth, your name to glorify**

I waited patiently for you, O God;  
you bent down and heard my cry.

**You lifted me out of the horrible pit, out of the miry clay,  
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

You put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.  
**Many shall see and wonder,  
and will put their trust in you. R**

**You put a new song in my mouth, your name to glorify**

Blessed are those whose trust is in God,  
**who have not turned to the proud,  
nor to those who follow a lie.**

O God, my God, you have multiplied your wondrous deeds  
**and your thoughts toward us;  
none can compare with you!**

I would proclaim and tell of them,  
**but they are more than can be numbered.**

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,  
**burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required.**

But you have opened my ears to hear, and I said: 'Here I am,  
ready to do what is written in the scroll of the book.'

**I delight to do your will, O my God,  
your law is in my heart. R**

**You put a new song in my mouth, your name to glorify**

I have told the glad news of deliverance in  
**the great congregation;**

I did not restrain my lips, as you well know.  
**I have not kept your goodness hidden in my heart,  
but have spoken of your faithfulness  
and your saving help.**

I have not concealed your steadfast love,  
nor your truth from the great congregation.  
**Do not withhold from me your tender care, O God;  
may your love and truth ever preserve me. R**

**You put a new song in my mouth, your name to glorify**

One: This is the witness of ancient song-writers  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 1: 1-9

One: This is the witness of the Church.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM: **"Be Still My Soul"**

John 1: 29-42

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.**

SERMON: **"Westminster Witnesses"**

†HYMN: **"Here I am Lord" (VU 509)**

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **"Easing Past Ills: Tatamagouche"**

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

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

†DEDICATION: **(Unison)**

**Gracious God, we offer you our gifts with humble hearts. We give what we can and each gift seems small on its own.**

**So bless each one and the gifts of all your people, throughout the Church. Through the work of your Holy Spirit, surprise us with all that our gifts can accomplish, blessed in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

†A NEW CREED: **(Sung)**

†CLOSING HYMN: **"Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" (VU 563)**

†COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION:

**Leader:** O Christ, you are a bright flame before us,

**All:** You are a guiding star above us.

**Leader:** You are the light and love we see in others' eyes.

**All:** Keep us, O Christ, in a love that is tender,

**Leader:** Keep us, O Christ, in a love that is true.

**All:** Keep us, O Christ, in a love that is strong, today, tomorrow and always.

(from "Celtic Prayers from Iona". J. Philip Newell. 1997)

†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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 January are allocated to Haitian Coffee*

### **Assisting with the Service This Morning**

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<b>Elder-in-Charge:</b>	Bob McCaig
<b>Greeters:</b>	Linda Kisell & Jennifer Oster
<b>Scripture Reader:</b>	Sharon Clay
<b>Minutes For Mission</b>	Marg McCulley
<b>Coffee Hosts:</b>	Marg McCulley & Dan Connor
<b>Sound :</b>	Hayley McKim
<b>PowerPoint Operator:</b>	Kathy Nielsen
<b>Wheelchair Lift Operator:</b>	Pat Evans