

Westminster United Church

Welcome to a Combined Summer Service for
the United Churches of Medicine Hat.

July 3, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.

Today's worship leader is the Rev. James Farrell.

Coloring packets for the children are available in the first pew on the pulpit side of the church.

Prelude / Sharing Announcements / A Time of Greeting

A Time of Silent Preparation—Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

One: Now is the time to dance heaven's dance,

All: Time to discern eternity's face, the moment of knowing beyond all sight,

One: the day of God's smile and tender embrace.

All: We are called to celebrate, not just by words spoken, but also by miracles recalled:

One: a baby's first cry, the petals of a rose,

All: mist-covered hills, the restless tides of the seas, human love, human hope.

One: We respond with gratitude:

All: with joy, with wonder, at life's boundless possibilities.

Opening Prayer (*Unison*)

We have been placed within the interwoven fabric of nature. May we appreciate its beauty: mountains and valleys, rivers and plains, sea and sky, and all of the earth with its vast array of plant and animal life, which it sustains. Amen.

Hymn #395 "Come In, Come In and Sit Down"

Prayer for Transformation (*Unison*)

Divine Mystery, whose image lies in the hearts of all people, we live among peoples whose languages are different from our own, whose faiths are foreign to us, whose ways we may fail to understand. May we remember that we are all equal and embrace one another. May we recognise words of truth and things of beauty and actions of love all about us! (*time for silent reflection*)

Words of Assurance (*One*)

We are always given the chance to begin again if we feel we have fallen short. May we begin anew in peace. Amen.

Biblical Notes / Prayer of Illumination

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 from the Christian Scriptures Pg. 16 (NRSV)

Anthem "Lord, Let Your Light Shine Down on Me!"

Reflection

Hymn #593 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

Our Church Tithes and Offerings / Offertory

Dedication #539 "God of All Good" (v 1 ó Tune 436)

Prayer of Dedication (*One*)

May we be empowered to respond generously, wisely and compassionately, that our gifts combined with the gifts of others, may follow the pattern of Jesus, and become a blessing. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession & Lord's Prayer

Hymn #352 "I Danced in the Morning"

Commissioning (*One*)

As those who have encountered the risen Christ in all that affirms life, we venture now into this day and this week encouraged by and sustained in that gift.

Choral "Amen"

Hymn #649 "Walk with Me" (Chorus)

Postlude

Welcome to Westminster this morning.

Please gather for coffee in Memorial Hall, following worship.

South Alberta Presbytery: *Our prayers this week are requested for Our First Nations neighbours.*

This Sunday's Elder-in-Charge is Pat Connell. She will be available to assist with congregational needs.

Mark your calendar for the Women's Retreat, Saturday, September 10th from 9:30 a.m. (coffee) to 4:00 p.m. Registration \$20, includes lunch. Deadline September 4th. Further info to follow. Contact Grace Roth (403-527-0206).

Stewardship Thought for Today

Yoking ourselves and our financial resources with Jesus and others, lightens all our burdens.

by the Rev. Catherine MacDonald (United Memorial United Church, Halifax)

Summer Worship — 10:00 a.m.

July services at Westminster.

August services at Fifth Avenue Memorial.

Westminster Summer Office & Building Hours

Tuesday ó Friday, 11:00 a.m. ó 3:00 p.m.

(In effect June 28th – August 19th.)

Enjoy summer!