

Westminster United Church



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

October 2, 2011

World Communion Sunday

Typically, the Pharisees are cast as the tenants in the parable. But what if, on this World Communion Sunday, we cast ourselves as the tenants, thinking that God has given us tenancy over all of creation? How does this shape our understanding of the parable and the implications for interaction with the wider community? How do we, as a church community, open the doors, offer communion, and shout welcome to the rejected stone? How do we become the tenants God wants us to be in order to build and maintain a church/faith community on a strong foundation, recognizing that the cornerstone is an amalgam of those who call themselves God's?

If you would like to stay seated for any or all of the “standing” parts of the service, please feel free to do so.

Need a refuge? Our Nursery is located off Memorial Hall, has a speaker system through which to hear the service, and exists for all who may need this space. Memorial Hall approach is via the pulpit side exit.

Prelude / Sharing Announcements / A Time of Greeting

A Time of Silent Preparation—Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship *(Responsive)*

One: We gather today in the spirit of unity as we share communion with the world.

All: **We join together in word and song and share the symbols of the communion meal this World Communion Sunday.**

One: We are a community of faith.

All: **We are a diverse community. Let us celebrate now with the faith communities the world over.**

Opening Prayer *(Unison)*

We join together with family, friends, and companions, in this our faith community. May our songs, prayers, and reflections be filled with spirit connected love with others around the globe. Amen.

Hymn #316 “Praise Our Maker”

Conversation Time

The Sunday School leaves for their classes.

Prayer for Transformation *(Unison)*

We celebrate life. Among us we have experienced broken lives made whole; old wounds of alienation healed over, and tired spirits rejuvenated with new vision. May we be grateful for the purpose and possibilities that have been placed before us. Yet there may have been times when doubt has overcome hope, cynicism has replaced dedication, the world's values have captured us. May we let go of the past that we might move joyfully into a new future that points to love and justice... *(time for silent reflection)*

Words of Assurance *(One)*

When we bring the dark areas of our life into the light of love; it does make a difference. Pardon and peace are ours. Amen.

Biblical Notes / Prayer of Illumination

Philippians 3:4b-14 from the Epistles Pg. 247

*Other lessons for your personal consideration from today's lections are:
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19 or Isaiah 5:1-7 or Psalm 80:7-15.*

Anthem “Table of Peace”

Matthew 21:33-46 from the Christian Scriptures Pg. 33 (NRSV)

Reflection

Hymn #586 “We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection”

Our Church Tithes and Offerings / Offertory

Dedication Hymn #227 “For the Fruit of All Creation” (v. 2)

Prayer of Dedication *(One)*

May these gifts, given with care, be blessed; and may we celebrate the difference our gifts make. Amen.

Celebrating Community: Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn #469 “We Gather Here”

The Invitation *(One)*

Our tradition says at the Last Supper, Jesus, sharing bread and wine, invited the disciples to share his journey.

Here today, through bread and wine, we renew our journey with Jesus and his disciples.

Here today, through bread and wine, we renew our unity with one another, and with all those who have gone before us in this place.

Here today, through bread and wine, we renew our communion with the earth and our interwovenness with the broken ones of the world.

The Story *(One)*

We are reminded again of the tradition that surrounds this story.

Long ago, on the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it: 'This bread is broken, as my body will be'.

And he handed it to his friends, and invited them to eat: 'Remember all that I have been to you'.

Long ago, on that same night, Jesus poured a cup of wine, offered thanks for it, and gave it to his friends: 'This wine is poured out, as my life will be. Remember me and give thanks for all I have given'.

Thanksgiving *(Responsive)*

One: God is the heart of life.

All: And we are the heartbeat.

One: May our hearts be filled with thanks and praise and songs of joy.

All: We rejoice in the miracle of life and delight in our participation.

One: Creating Holy, Source of Life, we offer our thanks. The smell of autumn rain, the surprise of geese in flight, the taste of squash, fresh apples and pumpkin pie, for all gifts simple and profound, in country and city, in pasture or back yard: We give thanks.

All: We give thanks.

One: We, who hold all such good things in trust, join with others in declaring:

All: Holy! Holy! Holy!

One: Heaven and earth are holy and good. Holy is peace.

All: Holy is truth. Holy is love.

One: In this season of transition as the leaves begin their subtle change of colour and our hearts cling to the passing warmth of summer as the days shorten, once again we are reminded, that new possibilities can rise from our failures or disappointments or what has come to an end. We give thanks for all the influences in our lives that have helped us to see beyond the present: that teach us to combine labour and rest, that bring us the cycles of time and season, that sustain us when we are in need.

All: God loves in us; God cares through us; God laughs in us; God cries in us, as nowhere else.

One: Especially we give thanks for Jesus of Nazareth, gatherer of folk, teller of stories, breaker of bread, pourer of wine, weaver of lives. In his life, wisdom, stories, and social vision we recall the words he spoke to call forth in us love, care and respect for one another:

All: And we believe the same

One: Divine Spirit that came to visibility in Jesus yearns for visible expression in us.

(M. Morwood). So now we take this bread and this wine...may they be a constant presence of the Spirit of Life and Love, healing, renewing, and making us whole.

All: Together we remember our past. Together we discern our present. Together we shape our future.

Bread and Wine *(One)*

The bread is broken...the wine poured, in silence.

Communion *(One)*

So come, taste of this same bread and wine! Gifts of the earth. Work of human hands.

Distribution of bread and wine, continuous line.

After Communion *(One)*

May the bread and the wine and the remembering be a blessing on us all.

Commissioning *(One)*

We go as those whose hearts and lives; touched by Christ presence, join with all throughout time and space who have journeyed so. In this affirmation we rejoice and take courage. Amen.

Choral Amen

Hymn #298 “When You Walk from Here”

Postlude

Welcome to Westminster this morning.

Please gather for coffee in Memorial Hall, following worship.

This Week at Westminster *(October 2nd – 8th)*

Sun.	Local Food Needs	10:00 a.m.	Narthex
	World Communion Sunday	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
	Jr. Choir Practice	11:45 a.m.	Lounge
Mon.	Property	7:00 p.m.	Westminster Room
Tue.	Prayer Shawl	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
Wed.	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
	Qi Gong	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Thu.	UCW Meeting	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
	Senior Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Fri.	Thanksgiving Decorating	10:00 a.m.	Sanctuary

Next Week at Westminster *(October 9th – 15th)*

Sun.	Local Food Needs	10:00 a.m.	Narthex
	Worship: Thanksgiving	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
Tue.	Prayer Shawl	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
	Board of Elders	7:00 p.m.	Lounge
Wed.	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
	Qi Gong	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Thu.	Senior Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

Friendship Rosters: Please sign the Friendship Roster this morning. It is a helpful record of your worship presence and a way to share special concerns.

5 Minute Parking Reminder: These two areas, located near the Sanctuary and Glass doors are ONLY to be used as DROP OFF zones. Please refrain from using them as parking spaces.

A sincere thank you to Donna Scharf, Gord Wallsmith, Pat Bohnet, Lesley Berg, Pat Connell, Dawn Skogen, and Grace Alcock for their efforts toward the Pictorial Directory. A huge job, well done!

Free trade coffee has been purchased from Lifeline Haiti for their efforts to make life easier for Haitian children. Anyone wishing to support this worthwhile cause, through a free-will offering, the coffee will be brewed separately and labelled. In support of Lifeline Haiti.

Congregational Life Committee is appealing to the congregation for goodies for Sunday morning coffee time. Please mark your items "For Sunday Coffee" and include the current date before storing in the auxiliary kitchen freezer.

The Visitation & Membership committee is appealing for volunteers to assist with Hospital Visitation, an important ministry of pastoral care. Please contact the office for further information.

The Finance Committee is in need of Offertory Counters on Sundays on a rotation basis. If this is of interest to you, please contact the office or Murray Bell, Treasurer.

Financial Report: Westminster has received \$112,980 in the **General Fund** to the end of *September 2011*. For the same period in 2010, we received \$119,890 realizing a current shortage in contributions of about \$6,910. Westminster has received \$17,433 for the **Mission & Service Fund** to the end of *September 2011*. For the same period in 2010, we received \$16,586 realizing advances of about \$845. Although we are grateful for and appreciate the contributions already gifted, we invite you to consider, if able, in helping eliminate the shortfall. Thank you. *Murray Bell, Treasurer*

Qi Gong instructed by Deanna Ries has begun on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and will run for 6 weeks.

Thanksgiving decorating in the Sanctuary will take place this Friday at 10:00 a.m. Please consider helping with this important ministry, as many hands make light work.

Sunday, October 9th the Willing Gardeners invite everyone to **enjoy coffee before church**; served in the Narthex. Bring your own travel mug, if you wish.

To assist **Project Connect**, the **Mission & Outreach** committee is collecting **NEW** warm socks, men's underwear (all sizes), toques, warm mittens, and bath towels to share with our most vulnerable neighbours in Medicine Hat. **Donations are needed by October 19th** and can be dropped off in the large green box on the Chancel.

We at Westminster will host our **annual Fall Supper on Saturday, October 22nd**. Meal times are 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Ticket prices are: \$12-Adult, \$6-Children (12 and under), or \$35 Family. Tickets are available in Memorial Hall after Worship or in the office throughout the week.

2011 Banff Men's Conference—October 21-23. Theme is "**Here I Am.**" **New location—The Banff Park Lodge.** To register or for more information, check out www.banffmen.org.

Calgary Presbytery 2011 Annual Learning Day—Saturday, October 29th at Woodcliff United Church, 5010 Spruce Drive SW. Lifelong Learning is a positive goal. The line up of facilitators who will be presenting workshops is fantastic—something for everyone! To register, go to www.calgaryunited.ca and click on "Learning Day."

November 30th is the deadline to register for the 10th Anniversary of **Epiphany Explorations** held January 19-23, 2012 at First Metropolitan United, Victoria, BC. Marcus Borg and Richard Rohrbaugh are key speakers. For additional information, talk to Boyd or Grace Alcock at 403-527-6753.

Celebrations This Week

Wedding: *Ministry was extended into the community this past week as James officiated at the marriage celebration of Sharon Hayward & Rhonda Koenig.*

Birthdays: *Lil Iwanicki, Kalen Sehn, and Harold Leitch.*

Anniversaries: *Ken & Bev Empey, Mina Carlson & Rory Sehn, and Mia & Sean Glasser.*

South Alberta Presbytery: *Our prayers this week are requested for all churches celebrating World Communion Sunday & the World Council of churches.*

Our Order of Ministry This Morning

Sunday School Co-ordinator	Jackie Carlson
Greeters & Ushers	Catherine Ramsay, Joan Dolman, Julia Taylor, Marilyn Piotrowski
Coffee Hosts	Stan & pat Bohnet, Sharon clay, Karen Knibbs
Scripture Reader	Marilynn Piotrowski
Elder-in-Charge	Dawn Skogen

Next Week's Readings for Thanksgiving Sunday: *Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23, Matthew 22:1-14; Philippians 4:1-9.*

Stewardship Thought for Today

Stewardship asks us to share God's love with all God's people, not just a select few.

by Kathie Murphy (General Council Office)