

Westminster United Church



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

November 20, 2011

Children’s Sunday / Baptism & Membership

Today is Reign of Christ/Christ the King Sunday, the end of the church year. We proclaim the hope of God’s eternal realm of justice and peace for the community of creation, especially for those members who are vulnerable, weak, and oppressed. We celebrate God-given opportunities to encounter Christ at work in one another.

*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.*

***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.*

Prelude / Sharing Announcements / A Time of Greeting

A Time of Silent Preparation—Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship *(Responsive)*

One: As we gather to remember and share stories of faith, let us also rejoice in the presentness of Creativity God.

All: **Before our stories began, there was Divine Energy; through all our days that Divine Energy’s presentness is there, energizing us.**

One: Indeed, Spirit is moving among us, about to do a new thing in our midst.

All: **We will sing praises and offer thanks. We seek to grow in faith and in love for one another.**

Opening Prayer *(Unison)*

As the example of Jesus reigns among us may our worship be joyful, insightful, and free. May our faith community be enthusiastic, supportive, and ready to serve. May the downhearted know hope, and the suffering know peace. May the faiths of the world join hands, and fear come to an end. Amen.

Jr. Choir Anthem “Joy for You and Me”

Sacrament of Baptism

Hymn #644 “I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry” (vv. 1-3)

*(During the hymn, those sharing in the baptism gather on the chancel.)
(All the children are welcome to gather on the chancel steps.)*

Jackie Carlson: On behalf of the Board of Westminster United Church, I present the following children for initiation into the body of Christ through Baptism:

Jack Allan Halpenny,
son of
Michael & Lindsay Halpenny
and
Morgan Merrilee Wallace,
daughter of
Jeffrey & Sherry Wallace

Baptism Vows

You come to this place bringing your children, Morgan & Jack. You, their parents, speak for them. Their care and nurture are entrusted to you. You bring Jack & Morgan here to commit them and yourselves to a life of faith, a journey with ever-new experiences and challenges.

Do you see the act of baptism as a symbol of our celebration of the life of your child, filled as he or she already is with the spirit of the Divine? If so, please say, ðI do.ö

I do.

Do you believe that as we share the stories of life, yours, ours, those of our children, and those of people of wisdom and faith who have gone before us, that we come to know the Divine more fully? If so, please say, ðI do.ö

I do.

Do you commit yourself and your child to a journey of the spirit within the faith community, seeking to find and nurture wholeness within yourself, your child, and the world? If so, please say, ðI do.ö

I do.

Baptismal Promises of the Congregation *(Please stand.)*

One: We gather at this font to celebrate the Spirit of Life that connects us all and through which we come to love ourselves, one another, and the whole of creation.

All: This font and the water in it are our symbols of community and symbols of our common need for the refreshing waters of the Spirit.

One: Through water we are born, of water we are made, by water we are sustained. Each of you, whole and loved knows the need for support and care upon the spiritual journey. As these individuals gather to commit to this journey through baptism, let us pledge our care to them.

All: We stand as witnesses to the commitment these people make to the journey of faith and pledge ourselves, through the symbol of this water, to their love, support, and care as they discover the ways that the Spirit unfolds for them. *(Please be seated.)*

Let us pray. *(One)*

May we be thankful for the gift of life and within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise, the Spirit hovered at creation; by water comes the growth of the earth. Through water, the children of Israel were led to freedom; in the waters of the Jordan, Jesus was baptised. May this water be a sign for all of new life. Amen.

The water is poured.

The Baptism

*(All relatives and friends of **Jack** are asked to stand where they are seated in the pew as she is being baptised.)*

James: ðJack, I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. You are baptised in the name of love: its beginning and its end, its commitment and its challenge, its peace and its power.ö

People Respond: “Amen.”

Laying on of Hands

(The family, Elder, and James place their hands on Jack, to indicate the action of the Holy Spirit.)

James: ðJack, may the Spirit work within you, that being born of water and Spirit; you may be a faithful witness of Jesus.ö

People Respond: “Amen.”

The Declaration

In the name of Jesus, who was baptised as you are now, you are welcomed into the household of faith with joy and thanksgiving.

The Baptism

*(All relatives and friends of **Morgan** are asked to stand where they are seated in the pew as he is being baptised.)*

James: ðMorgan, I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. You are baptised in the name of love: its beginning and its end, its commitment and its challenge, its peace and its power.ö

People Respond: “Amen.”

Laying on of Hands

(The family, Elder, and James place their hands on Morgan, to indicate the action of the Holy Spirit.)

James: ðMorgan, may the Spirit work within you, that being born of water and Spirit; you may be a faithful witness of Jesus.ö

People Respond: “Amen.”

The Declaration

In the name of Jesus, who was baptised as you are now, you are welcomed into the household of faith with joy and thanksgiving.

Morgan and Jack are greeted by the children. The Baptismal certificates are shared. (The families and children return to their seats during the following hymn. Coloring packets for the children are available in the first pew on the pulpit side of the church.)

Hymn #644 “I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry” (vv. 4-7)

Service of Membership through Reaffirmation

(Those sharing in the service of membership please come to the Chancel.)

Garry & Victoria Mogck and Lorenz & Faye Fedrau

Membership Address

The Affirmations:

One: *Garry & Victoria, Lorenz & Faye*, desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, I ask you before God and this congregation: Do you profess anew your faith in God your Creator, in Jesus Christ the Word made flesh, and in the Holy Spirit, God with us? And, as you make this affirmation, do you declare your intention to continue with the people of Westminster United Church as we seek the presence of the Holy among us through worship, study, and reflection, together supporting this church with our gifts as we share in its mission to all people?

I do, God being my helper.

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are welcome to share the privileges and responsibilities of membership within Westminster Congregation.

Congregation *(Please stand.)*

As God has called us, we pledge to you our friendship, our help, and our prayers.

One: Let us pray:

All: Teach us, God, to serve You as You deserve:

to give and not to count the cost,

to be spiritually vulnerable for you,

to be willing to “be” as well as willing to “do”

to give gifts of our being without seeking a reward,

save that of knowing that we walk in your presence,

through Jesus Christ, the Word made Flesh. Amen.

(Welcome to newest members. Please be seated.)

Prayer for Transformation *(Unison)*

Where we lack freedom, may we have the courage to risk change.
Where we lack generosity, may we have the courage to share.
Where we lack acceptance, may our eyes be opened to see the
downtrodden. When we lack a liberating attitude, may we be
enabled to work in fresh ways. When we lack involvement, may we
be open to new initiatives of compassion and community support...
(time for silent reflection)

Words of Assurance *(One)*

As we work patiently to bring close the reign of Jesus, peace and a new determination are
ours. Amen.

Biblical Notes / Prayer of Illumination

Psalm 95:1-7a from the Hebrew Scriptures Pg. 591

*Other lessons for your personal consideration from today's lections are:
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Matthew 25:31-46; Ephesians 1:15-23.*

Hymn #222 "Come, Let Us Sing"

Matthew 25:14-30 from the Christian Scriptures Pg. 37 (NRSV)

Reflection

Hymn #582 "There's a Spirit in the Air"

Mission Momentô Evan Gunn & Jessie Glock

Our Church Tithes and Offerings / Offertory

Dedication Hymn #540 "Grant Us, God, the Grace"

Prayer of Dedication *(One)*

As we bring our offerings forward, may our whole life move forward, in good faith, with
good feelings, and with a good belief about the future. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession & Lord's Prayer

Hymn #245 "Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet"

Commissioning *(One)*

Let us go from here as those committed to bring Jesus' reign closer. Let us be a challenge
to the powerful; a support to the suffering; a word of hope to the despairing; a beacon of
hope to the uncertain an encouraging presence to the venturesome. Go in peace.

Choral Amen

Hymn "Dance With the Spirit"

Postlude

Welcome to Westminster this morning.

Please gather for coffee in Memorial Hall, following worship.

www.westminsteruc.com/calendar

This Week at Westminster *(November 20th – 26th)*

Sun.	Worship: Children's Sunday Jr. Choir Sings Baptism & Membership	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
Tue.	Staff Meeting Prayer Shawl	9:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	Lounge
Wed.	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
Thu.	<i>Decorating for Advent</i> Senior Choir Practice	<i>9:30 a.m.</i> 7:00 p.m.	<i>Sanctuary</i>

Next Week at Westminster *(November 27th – December 3rd)*

Sun.	Christian Development	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
Sun.	Local Food Needs Advent I Communion Worship Guests: <i>Tartones</i>	10:00 a.m. 10:25 a.m.	Narthex Sanctuary
	Jr. Choir Practice	11:45 a.m.	Lounge
Tue.	Prayer Shawl	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
Wed.	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
Thu.	Senior Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

www.westminsteruc.com/bulletins

Thank You to all who participated in the UCW Poinsettia Tea in any way. Your
contribution is to be celebrated!

Sanctuary Decorating for Advent will take place this Thursday at 9:30 a.m.
Anyone interested in donating supplies or helping to enhance the Advent season, are
welcome to participate in this time of fellowship.

Next Sunday, as you arrive at church, you will receive a slip of paper from the Music
& Worship Committee. Please write down the hymn number of a couple of your
favourite hymns from the Voices United hymnbook and place the slip in the offering
plate. Before church on December 4th, we will use those suggestions to compile a
list for a pre-worship hymn sing.

On Thursday, December 1st at Canadian Tire, we still need volunteers from
Westminster to help with the Salvation Army Christmas Kettles. Please check
your calendars and **sign up after church with Donna Scharf**. Thanks to the helping
nature of our congregation all the other days are full. People still wanting to help at
different times or places should call *The Salvation Army* at 403-527-2474.

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

PAR—Pre-Authorized Remittance:

Myth: The money given through your PAR goes to other places or to United Church head offices.

Fact: The donation comes out of your bank account about the 20th of every month and deposited into Westminster United Church's bank account the very same day. It is administered by the United Church at no cost. We pay a small bank fee.

Myth: Once you sign up for PAR, you are locked in and can't change the amount or even stop altogether.

Fact: PAR is very flexible. You may increase or decrease the amount by phone or note to Donna Scharf. Some people change the amount every year as the cost of living goes up. You may stop anytime with a written direction to that effect or there is a form at the church office.

Celebrations This Week

Birthdays: *Grace Wallace, Hayden Klaiber, and John Leask.*

South Alberta Presbytery: *Our prayers this week are requested for The Bissell Centre, Edmonton.*

Our Order of Ministry This Morning

S. School Co-ordinator	Jackie Carlson
Greeters	Amanda Denning, Alex Irvine, Ben Irvine, Corianne Rattai, Keera Baldwin
Ushers	Sunday School Children & Teachers
Coffee Hosts	Sunday School Children, Teachers, & Parents
Scripture Reader	Jeff Gunn
Elder-in-Charge	Jennifer Oster

Next Week's Readings for Advent I: *Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Mark 13:24-37; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9.*

Stewardship Thought for Today

Stewards see others as they see themselves.

We are all broken and in need.

What can we do to help each other?

by Kathie Murphy (General Council Office)

November 15, 2011 Board Summary: Terry Shillington and Mark Sayers from South Alberta Presbytery Pastoral Relations were present to discuss the half time Ministry position and present various options to the Board of Elders. The Board will put additional emphasis on the "Direct Trade" coffee to encourage support for this program. Approval was provided for the Baptism of Jack Halpenny and Morgan Wallace. A decision was made to hold only one Christmas Eve service this year and it will be held at 7:00 p.m. Committee reports included an update on the potential elevator installation; and on the Fall Supper, which netted a profit of \$3,388.90. *Respectfully submitted, Ron McEwen, Board Secretary*