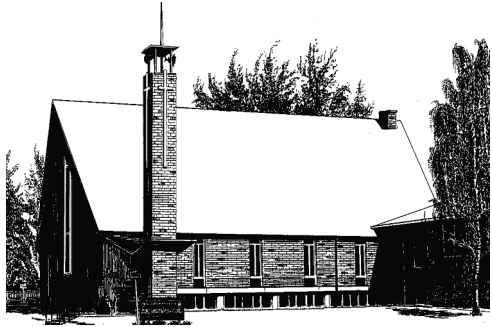


Westminster United Church



Ministers: All the people
Clergy: Rev. James Farrell
Director of Music: Chris White
Treasurer: Murray Bell
Custodian: Lynne Ziefflie
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*“We are a faith community building relationships
with God, all people, and our world.”*

January 1, 2011

Music Worship led by Senior Choir

Amid the songs of joy at Christmas and New Years, stress and pain can slip into the midst of celebration. The challenge in worship today is to acknowledge pain, while celebrating the joy-filled moments. In the midst of familiar carols and songs, we are challenged to hear the oft times unfamiliar praise of the whole Earth.

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.

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

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.

❄️ Happy New Year! ❄️

Prelude / Sharing Announcements / A Time of Greeting

A Time of Silent Preparation—Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

One: This is the place.

All: The place where we joyfully worship together.

One: This is the time.

All: The time that we know Holy Love within us for the coming year.

One: These are our friends.

All: The friends who celebrate with us and stay with us when challenges come.

One: Let us worship together.

Opening Prayer (*Unison*)

Dear God, when your precious Son became a tiny baby in a stable in Bethlehem, in poverty and simplicity, you changed our world. As we imagine those surroundings, we join with the shepherds and the wise men in wonder and praise. We thank you for our material lives, praise you for our spiritual lives, and trust in you for our eternal life. Amen.

Carol/Hymn #48 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Carol/Hymn #69 “Away in a Manger”

Prayer for Transformation (*Unison*)

One: We celebrate our joys and achievements in the past year.

All: We reflect on the hardship, the unexpected change, and the setbacks—all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

One: We celebrate our friendships and family ties.

All: We reflect on times of uncaring, poor communication, and of relationships strained – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

One: We celebrate the fulfilment we have found within the faith community.

All: We reflect on missed opportunities for worship and service, and the times when we may be blind to the work of the wider church – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

One: We celebrate the discipleship of Jesus Christ which is ours.

All: We reflect on our struggle to hear the call of Jesus and to follow his example carefully – all the situations from which we may learn and grow, in faith and action...*(time for silent reflection)*

Words of Assurance (*One*)

A new year, a new set of goals. Pardon and peace are ours. Amen.

Reading: Luke 2: 1-20

Carol Requests

Reading: “One Christmas Card Coming Up” by Gary Lautens

Carol/Hymn #67 “Silent Night”

Reading: “The Santa Claus on I-40” by Linda Stafford

Our Church Tithes and Offerings / Offertory

Dedication Hymn #79 “Arise You Light is Come” (vs. 1)

Prayer of Dedication (One)

As bells ring out, as joy breaks out, as light shines out, we recognize the blessing these gifts will bring, and we rejoice! Amen.

Carol/Hymn #59 “Joy to the World”

Carol Requests

Reading: “Christmas Joy” by Phyllis Volkens

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession & Lord’s Prayer

Commissioning (One)

Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth, may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving.

Choral Amen

Hymn #43 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (Chorus x 2)

Postlude

Welcome to Westminster this morning.

Please gather for coffee in Memorial Hall, following worship.

www.westminsteruc.com/calendar

This Week at Westminster (January 1 – 7th)

Sun.	Local Food Needs	10:00 a.m.	Narthex
	Worship & Music	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
Wed.	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
Thu.	Senior Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

Next Week at Westminster (January 8th – 14th)

Sun.	Music & Worship	9:00 a.m.	Lounge
	Local Food Needs	10:00 a.m.	Narthex
	Worship & Epiphany Communion	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
Mon.	Property	7:00 p.m.	Westminster
Tue.	Prayer Shawl	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
Wed.	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
Thu.	UCW Meeting	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
	Senior Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

www.westminsteruc.com/bulletins

If you are interested in adult or infant Baptism, Transfer of Membership, or Reaffirmation of Faith, please contact James or the office immediately.

Your **2012 offering envelopes** are available in the Narthex. When you pick up your envelopes you may notice that the number is different from the one you had for 2011. This is because we have reduced the number of envelopes ordered as more people are using PAR. All numbers are below 150. If you have any questions regarding the correctness of your number, please contact Murray via the church office. The cost of the Observer is \$20.00 (subject to 2012 increase). Please do not use these envelopes, including the Observer envelope until January 1, 2012. Destroy your old unused 2011 envelopes in the New Year. People on PAR are not issued envelopes. Thanks for your cooperation ó *Murray Bell, Treasurer.*

Commune-I-Care will be making their next “call-out” from January 8th to January 14, 2012. These calls provide each family with regular opportunities to receive information; notices of coming activities or events; and to allow families to give information regarding celebrations in their lives and provide information regarding possible needs they may have.

Celebrations This Week

Birthdays: *Leroy Angle, Dave Luyten, Penita Schnell, Margaret Henderson.*

Anniversaries: *Adair & Vern Prouty.*

South Alberta Presbytery: *Our prayers this week are requested for Conference President, Sally Boyle, and Conference Executive Secretary, Lynn Maki.*

Our Order of Ministry This Morning

Greeters & Ushers	Barb Grozell, Boyd Alcock, Clare Crews, Frieda Hiller
Coffee Hosts	Betty & John Sidlick, Sharon Clay
Elder-in-Charge	Pat Evans

Next Week’s Readings: *Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Mark 1:4-11 or Acts 19:1-7.*

Stewardship Thought for Today

There are 52 hospital, nursing home, community, and university chaplaincies that are funded by M&S. Together we make a difference. Join the partnership.

Give to M&S.