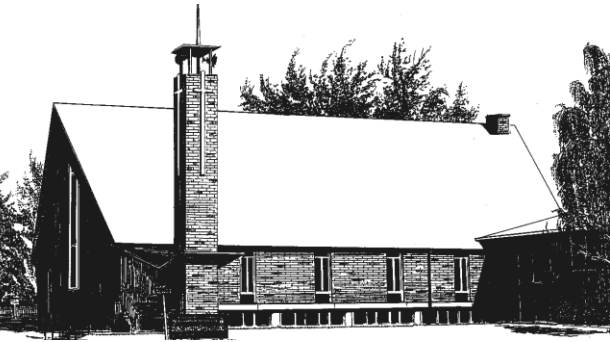


Westminster United Church



Ministers: All the people
Clergy: Rev. James Farrell
Director of Music: Chris White
Treasurer: Murray Bell
Custodian: Lynne Ziefflie
Secretary: Kim Sherring
Jr Choir: Anna Marie Hancock
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*“We are journeying together in God’s love . . .
to discover, nurture, and share our gifts.”*

January 15, 2012 “Confirmation Sunday”

What does it mean to be called, to discern the meaning of that call, and to live into that call in community? Being called to carry out tasks which are distasteful; to name truths, even when the naming hurts; and to act on directions we don’t understand, can be difficult. God knows us and loves us, and God calls us, often in unexpected ways. In today’s focus scripture, Samuels’s actions illustrate a faithful living out of a difficult call in the very heart of the temple.

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 are called to worship, not just by words spoken, but also by miracles recalled:

All: a baby’s first cry, the petals of a rose, mist-covered hills, the restless tides of the seas, human love, human hope.

One: We respond:

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

Opening Prayer (Unison)

As we gather in this place of worship may we be challenged with truth and inspired with Holy love. Then as we return to our worlds of work and learning and living, may we be enlightened with wisdom, and empowered with Divine strength. Amen.

Hymn #563 “Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

Conversation Time

The Sunday School children leave for their classes.

Prayer for Transformation (Responsive)

One: We gather to welcome the beginning of Jesus’ ministry.

All: Like the crowds on Jordan’s bank, we come humbly, to leave the past behind.

One: We gather expectantly, for we are ready to hear the prophetic work.

All: We are called to listen carefully, plan enthusiastically, and to respond practically.

One: We gather to make the new start that baptism symbolises.

All: With that Jordan crowd, we confess our fear of change, but affirm our willingness to turn our lifestyle around.

One: We gather to witness the awesome power of the Spirit within us.

All: We will be inspired to renew our relationships and to work in community to enliven our neighbourhood...(time for silent reflection)

Words of Assurance (One)

May we be ready to change our ways: to forgive freely, to give of ourselves with generosity, to listen carefully, to meet needs promptly, to respond faithfully, to act justly. As we do, peace will be ours. Amen.

Biblical Notes / Prayer of Illumination

1 Samuel 3:1-10 from the Hebrew Scriptures Pg. 268

*Other lessons for your personal consideration from today’s lections are:
1 Samuel 3:11-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 and 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.*

Anthem “Bathe Me In Your Light”

John 1:43-51 from the Christian Scriptures Pg. 119 (NRSV)

Reflection for Confirmation Sunday

Hymn #509 “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

(During the singing of this hymn – those sharing in the service of Confirmation please join on the Chancel.)



Service of Confirmation

Confirmands: *Erynn Biggar*
 Derek Skogen
 Richele Staseson

The Promises

One: Erynn, Derek, and Richele; 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?

Answer: I do.

One: Do you declare your intention to continue with the people of Westminster United Church as we seek the presence of God among us through worship, study and prayer?

Answer: I do, God being my helper.

One: Do you now express your hope to continue in the life and work of this church as you support it with your gifts and share in its mission to all people?

Answer: I do, God being my helper.

One: Will you endeavour daily to respond to God’s love, to seek God’s will, and to fulfill your Christian calling and ministry in the world?

Answer: I will, God being my helper.

Confirmation

(Laying on of Hands)

Erynn / Derek / Richele: May the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may continue to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Commissioning

Go into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill your high calling as a servant and minister of Jesus Christ.

Welcoming

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in Westminster Congregation.

(The Distribution of Certificates, Gifts & Bibles)

Hymn #161 “I Have Called You by Your Name”

Our Church Tithes and Offerings / Offertory

Dedication Hymn #538 “For the Gift of Creation”

Prayer of Dedication *(One)*

May the commitment we know, as members of this community, be reflected in our offerings. May these gifts be blessed and put to work in the way of Jesus, within this faith community and within the global community.

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession & Lord’s Prayer

Hymn #567 “Will You Come and Follow Me”

Commissioning *(One)*

May Divine wisdom guide us wherever we walk and work in this world. May we taste and see Holy goodness this day, and for evermore.

Choral Amen

Hymn #424 “May the God of Hope Go with Us” (vs 1)

Postlude

*Welcome to Westminster this morning.
Please gather for coffee in Memorial Hall, following worship.*

This Week at Westminster *(January 15th – 21st)*

Sun.	Worship	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
	Jr. Choir Practice	11:45 a.m.	Lounge
Tue.	Prayer Shawl	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
	Board of Elders	7:00 p.m.	Lounge
Wed.	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
Thu.	Senior Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

Next Week at Westminster *(January 22nd – 28th)*

Sun.	CD	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
	Worship	10:25 a.m.	Lounge
	Jr. Choir Practice	11:45 a.m.	Lounge
Tues.	Prayer Shawl	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
Wed.	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
Thurs.	Senior Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

Please sign the Friendship Roster this morning.

PAR Subscribers – If you wish to receive the *OBSERVER* magazine, please pick up a donation envelope in the Narthex. The cost is \$20.00.

Charitable tax receipts will be available for pickup in Memorial Hall after worship today. Please stop and pick yours up.

There are still some **2012 Offering Envelopes** for pickup in the Narthex. Please destroy your old, unused 2011 envelopes

Thank you to everyone who took part in the January **Commune-I-Care** “call-out.”

Thank you to everyone who helped “de-decorate” the sanctuary.

Westminster Senior Choir is hosting “**A Winter Choral Celebration**” on Sunday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m. A lunch will follow.

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday, February 5, following the service. More information and a food list will follow.

Celebrations This Week

Funerals: *Ministry was extended into the community this past week as the Rev. Farrell conducted funeral services for Ron Becker and Jean Vanier. Our condolences go out to their families.*

Birthdays: *Wayne Harper, Vera Henderson, Flora Gaub, Pat Marshall, Joyce Scott, Grace Roth, Beth Miner, Karen Knibbs, Velma Pearson, Natalie Johnson, Adair Prouty.*

South Alberta Presbytery: *Our prayers this week are requested for Brooks Pastoral Charge and Kathleen Jones.*

Our Order of Ministry This Morning

Sunday School Co-ordinator	Jackie Carlson
Greeters & Ushers	Emma & Ray Yanke, Charlene Andreas and May Cooper
Coffee Hosts	Sharon Clay, Karen Knibbs, Pat & Stan Bohnet
Scripture Reader	Mina Carlson
Elder-in-Charge	Doug Pearson

Next Week’s Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20.

Stewardship Thought for Today

Stewardship is ascribing to God the glory of God’s creation of the heavens and the earth.

By the Rev. Sheila Campbell

Statements of Faith Adult Confirmation 2011-2012

Erynn Biggar

I found the confirmation course to be enlightening and I am grateful to James and the other participants for our time together. The course was a great stepping stone in my spiritual journey and I enjoyed learning about Westminster and the United Church of Canada. Our conversations were thought provoking but also reassuring. I feel comfortable here and am so pleased to become a member.

Derek Skogen

While attending confirmation class with a splendid group of people—might I add—my knowledge of the United Church and its values has increased. I have learned that I am encouraged to pursue my own personal religious beliefs and to voice my opinion. To me, the United Church is a safe place where I can share my thoughts with others. Confirmation class was very applicable to my life and I’m very grateful for it. I am thankful for all the conversations, laughs and knowledge that I have gained from this course.

Rachele Staseson

The United Church is where my husband, Jeff, and I were married in 2005. Now that we have started a family, I am very excited to be part of such a welcoming community. It is great to know that our daughter will be brought up in an open-minded and accepting church.

I greatly enjoyed my confirmation classes with James, Derek and Erynn and am so thankful for the peace and understanding that I felt during our time together and for the clarity it has brought me about my own faith.