

Westminster United Church



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

January 29, 2012

What is it that makes Jesusøministry so different from the ministry of other teachers of his time? Mark says that Jesus speaks with substance and with authority that was instantaneously recognizable to all who heard him. Both the poet of Psalm 111 and the author of Deuteronomy tell of God being known through wonderful deeds that bring authority. Paul suggests there is authority within us that allows us to act with freedom of choice.

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 set out on a journey to discover, dream and grow;

All: **may the Spirit within, stretch our minds and grant the vision that we lack.**

One: Exploration brings new insights, changes, and choices we must face;

All: **may we have wisdom deciding, and courage for the journey,**

One: May we cherish only what's essential,

All: **there can be no turning back**

Opening Prayer *(Unison)*

We can each feel within ourselves, our creativity awaiting life. Its voice whispers to us, forming that vision which is so intimately our own, yet asks to be shared. The words that require a page, the forms of colour begging a canvas, the motion needs to be danced, or the pattern of sounds danced, or the pattern of sounds which may breathe only through a flute. May we recognise these voices in ourselves and be challenged to realise them to life, in beauty. May we feel the presence of the Holy in their whispers. Amen.

Jr. Choir *“Simple Song of Love”*

Conversation Time

The Sunday School children leave for their classes.

Prayer for Transformation *(Unison)*

We are challenged to use our faithful authority, authority not reliant on the fixed pattern of the years, but on the gentle, flexible, affirming approach. We are inspired to use our faithful authority, authority born of wise insight, careful study, and skilful practice. The Holy is with us as we use our faithful authority, authority rooted in Hebrew and Christian scripture, the prayer-based way of Jesus. We are supported by the Holy as we use our faithful authority, authority which runs counter to the powerful and fear-making authority that will not leave the oppressed to suffer ...*(time for silent reflection)*

Words of Assurance *(One)*

As we let go of our self-serving attitudes and practices, we will experience peace. Amen.

Biblical Notes / Prayer of Illumination

Psalm 111 *from the Hebrew Scriptures* Pg. 602

*Other lessons for your personal consideration from today's lections are:
Deuteronomy 18:15-20 and 1 Corinthians 8:1-13.*

Hymn #223 *“Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing”*

Mark 1:21-28 *from the Christian Scriptures* Pg. 45 *(NRSV)*

Reflection

Hymn #358 *“When Jesus the Healer”*

Mission Moment—Leprosy Day Video

Our Church Tithes and Offerings / Offertory

Dedication Hymn #79 “Arise Your Light is Come”

Prayer of Dedication (One)

Let our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity. Let our faith be expressed in good causes. Let our belief in the future find full expression in our daily attitude of mind. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession & Lord’s Prayer

Hymn MV#12 “Come Touch Our Hearts”

Commissioning (One)

May the Source who has called us dream in us a lifetime of adventures. May that call stretch before us horizons yet to be explored. And may we know the embrace of the One who calls us into life.

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 29th – February 4th)

Sun.	Trustees	9:00 a.m.	Shalom Room
	Worship	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
	M & P Committee Meeting	12:00 p.m.	Side Office
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

Next Week at Westminster (February 5th – February 11th)

Sun.	Music & Worship	9:00 a.m.	Lounge
	Local Food Needs Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Narthex
	Worship	10:25 a.m.	Lounge
	Annual Congregational Mtg.	11:45 p.m.	Memorial Hall
Mon.	Property	7:00 p.m.	Westminster Room
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

An **Annual Report** booklet is located in the Narthex and by the Ramp for each church family.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday, beginning with a potluck lunch immediately following Worship. This is the time that we take to review the past year’s work; show our appreciation to those who contributed to that

work; and make plans for the coming year. *Your contribution is most important—please plan to attend.* Bring your copy of the Annual Report to this meeting. Food contributions for the Annual Meeting potluck lunch will be as follows:

Ross Glen & Southridge ó desserts

Crestwood, Hill, Flats and Crescent Heights ó sandwiches (1/2 a loaf)

Others ó pickles or any of the above.

A group of volunteers to assist with set up prior to Worship and/or clean up after the Meeting is invited.

PAR Subscribers ó If you wish to receive the *OBSERVER* magazine, please pick up a donation envelope in the Narthex. The cost is \$20.

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.

Celebrations This Week

Birthdays: *Melanie Rattai, Ed Marshall, Danielle Skogen, Kristen Skogen, Ken Empey, Rob Henderson, Holly Johnson, Jim Neigum, Alvin Cruickshank, Mia Glasser, Samantha Richard.*

Anniversaries: *Donna & Ron Scharf and Ralph & Lois Clarkson.*

The flowers today are placed by Sharon Clay in memory of her parents, Edith & Earle Clay. Quietly remembered and deeply missed.

South Alberta Presbytery: *Our prayers this week are requested for The Moderator, Mardi Tindal, and the General Council Staff.*

Our Order of Ministry This Morning

Sunday School Co-ordinator	Jackie Carlson
Greeters & Ushers	Joyce Carlson, Mina Carlson, Rae Wahl
Coffee Hosts	Sharon Clay, Joyce Shannon, Doug & Velma Pearson
Scripture Reader	Marilynn Piotrowski
Elder-in-Charge	Al Olson

Next Week’s Readings: *Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Mark 1:29-39; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23.*

Stewardship Thought for Today

Proclaim the good news! Believe in the good news! Let us be good stewards of God’s good news.

by the Rev. Sheila Campbell