



**Westminster United Church**  
**Worship Service for September 30, 2018**  
Pentecost 18/Creation Time 5  
Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Jan Stevenson

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Katelyn: Blessed be our God,

**All: our help in times of trouble.**

Katelyn: Blessed be our God,

**ALL: our help in times of trouble.**

Katelyn: Blessed be our God,

**ALL: our guide along the way.**

Katelyn: Blessed be our God,

**ALL: our help and our guide.**

Katelyn: Come, let us worship.

✠ PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: **"Bring Many Names"** (VU 268vs 1& 6)

OPENING PRAYER: (Words in **Bold** are unison)

Because of your grace, **we are.**

Because of your love, **we act.**

Because of your spirit, **we pray.**

Because of your gospel, **we live.**

Because of your presence, **we worship.**

If it had not been for you, Creator God, **we would not be.**

So it was, so it is, so it will be, **for now and forever. Amen**

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us share a sign of peace with each other.

✠ OPENING HYMN: **"When in Our Music God is Glorified"** (VU 533)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Jan:** "What's stopping you from entering the Kin-dom of God?" Jesus asked them. "What is your stumbling block?"

**Sarah:** Jealousy. Jealousy is in my way. Why can this person, who is not even a part of our group, do what I cannot? It is not my eyes, and what I have seen this person do in Jesus' name that is blocking me, it is my jealousy that stops me from celebrating the success. I must fix my heart until I can celebrate, too.

**Brett:** Pride. Pride is in my way. Why can this person use the name of Jesus, and not be a disciple? Why can this person, who has not travelled and camped with Jesus speak more assertively in my teacher's name than I can? It is not my tongue and what I speak that is blocking me, it is my arrogance and pride that is trying to hoard Jesus' teachings for myself and my friends. I must fix my ego, until I can learn from others how to share the Good News.

**Jan:** What's stopping **you** from entering the Kin-dom of God? What is your stumbling block? And what transformation is needed within yourself?

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION:

Jan: As we recognize our own stumbling blocks, we open ourselves to God's love that changes sinners into saints.

**ALL: May it be so. Make it so.**

INVITATION TO PRAYER: "***Kyrie Eleison***"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Response after each prayer: One: God of Love; **ALL: Hear Our Prayer**

The Medicine Hat Ministerial Association invites you to pray for **Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Onieu, Base Commander, CFB Suffield and Medicine Hat Police Service Chaplaincy( Dr Gail Eastman)**

South Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for **Refugees and people in war-torn countries**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

One: As we listen, may your word pierce our understanding, wound our conceit, and compel us to be transformed. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS: **Esther 7:1-6, 9-10**

ANTHEM: "***God is Love***"

SCRIPTURE READING: **Mark 9:38-50**

MEDITATION: "***Stand Out. Speak Up. Be Jesus***"

✠HYMN: "***O Master Let Me Walk with Thee***" (VU 560)

MINUTES FOR MISSION:

LIFE AND WORK:

INVITATION TO OFFERING:

One way for salt to lose its saltiness is for it to be watered down to the point of corroding. Have you ever watered down your offerings? How? What can you do to bring your best to God?

OFFERTORY:

✠DOXOLOGY: "***For the Gift of Creation***" (VU 538)

✠DEDICATION:

Bless these gifts to your service, God. May they act as salt, preserving what you love and bringing out the depth of your flavours. Amen.

THE NEW CREED: (Sung)

RELEASE OF COVENANT BETWEEN WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH AND REV. JAN STEVENSON

Leader: Will you, the members and friends of Westminster United Church, release Rev. Jan Stevenson from the duties of the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care today?

**ALL: We will, with God's help.**

Leader: Will you, Reverend Jan, release Westminster United from their dependence upon you as a minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care?

**Rev. Jan: I will, with God's help.**

Leader: As you journey onward, may you remember always that our love and appreciation for you are etched on your hearts...

**ALL: We know that God goes with you.**

Leader: As you experience the pain of change and insecurity of moving on, may you also experience the blessing of inner growth...

**ALL: We know that God goes with you.**

Leader: As you meet the poor, the pained, the stranger on your way, may you see in each one the face of our Christ...

**ALL: We know that God goes with you.**

Leader: As you walk through the good times and the hard times, may you never lose sight of the shelter of God's loving arms...

**ALL: We know that God goes with you.**

Leader: As you question your decisions and wonder about the fruits of your choices, may the peace of God reign in your heart....

**ALL: We know that God goes with you.**

Leader: We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for Jan Stevenson who is leaving us today. We entrust her into your loving care, knowing that you are always the Faithful Traveler and Companion on our way. Shelter her and protect her from all harm and all useless anxiety. May her future be a source of many enriching and transforming moments.

**ALL: Amen.**

✠CLOSING HYMN: "**Travel On, Travel On**" (VU 647)

✠COMMISSIONING:

One: May God set and guide you on the way; may Jesus lead you around obstacles and temptations; and may the Spirit support and nourish you on the journey. Amen.

BENEDICTION:

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 974)

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: "**I See a New Heaven**" (VU 713, vs 1)

***Please join us in Memorial Hall for a potluck lunch and Farewell to Rev. Jan Stevenson!***

### ***Assisting with the Service This Morning***

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<b><i>Elder-in-Charge:</i></b>	Linda Kisell
<b><i>Scripture Reader:</i></b>	Hayley McKim
<b><i>Minutes for Mission Reader</i></b>	Sharon Clay
<b><i>Greeters:</i></b>	Mike and Joan Jantze
<b><i>Sound</i></b>	Hayley McKim
<b><i>PowerPoint Operator</i></b>	Kathy Nielsen

## ***Announcements***

The Youth and Family Group will once again be doing a bottle drive, with proceeds being allocated to the Vacation Bible School. Please bring your bottles to the church anytime between now and October 15.

Would you be interested in visiting congregational members who are not able to attend church? The Pastoral Care Visitation Team is looking for a few more volunteers. Visits occur once every 2 months. If you are interested, please contact Betty Sidlick.

**Friday, October 26:** Fifth Avenue will be hosting Messy Church. More details regarding time and supper will follow, but it will be an evening of pumpkin carving, crafts and possibly a haunted house. Everyone welcome, wearing Hallowe'en costumes is encouraged but not required. A planning meeting will be held Thursday, October 4, at 3:30 pm at Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church. Anyone interested in helping out with this project is welcome to attend.

**Saturday, October 27, 5:00 pm:** Fall Supper at Gordon Memorial United Church (Redcliff) Tickets \$14 and \$7 for 6 and under. For tickets, please contact Reita 403-548-3517.

**Saturday, November 3:** Fall Supper at Westminster United Church (one sitting at 5:00 pm). We are having Roast Beef this year. Sign-up sheet for other items is in Memorial Hall.

Help us keep the air we share healthy and fragrance-free. The chemicals used in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with asthma, allergies and other medical conditions. Please do not wear perfume, cologne, aftershave and other fragrances.

The Peace Candle is lit as a reminder to Christians to pray for and work for world peace.

Donations at Coffee Time for September are allocated to the Westminster UCW.

### **Today's Minutes for Mission: Thank You to Our Ministers**

Our gifts for Mission & Service support ministers in their training, continuing education, and pastoral relations and provide resources to engage in ministry.

The United Church's 2006 statement of faith, A Song of Faith, notes that "to embody God's love in the world, the work of the church requires the ministry and discipleship of all believers." I invite you to wonder for a moment: What are the ways that a minister has helped this community of faith embody God's love in the world? Today, we offer gratitude for the many ways that our ministers help to embody God's love in the world through their leadership and ministry.

Thank you for the creative ways you proclaim God's message of love in worship. Thank you for the sacred moments you facilitate in the celebration of baptism and communion. Thank you for the ways you invite people of all ages to grow and deepen in faith. Thank you for the encouragement to participate in God's mission in the community and the world. Thank you for the loving care and prayers that you offer in times of joy and sorrow. Thank you for the vitality, faithfulness, and passion of your leadership. Our gifts to Mission & Service support our ministers, and we give thanks.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.