



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for October 7, 2018

Loving Our Neighbours: Living Thankfully Day by Day

Today's Worship Leaders are BJ Maddaford and Rev. Helen Reid

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Each day is a mystery.
None of us knows exactly what is going to happen,
exactly whom we're going to meet,
or exactly what we will be called upon to do.

**Each day is a mystery.
Even the days that are filled with routine
have moments filled with "aha!"
if we open ourselves to them.**

Each day is a mystery.

How will we live?

How will we love?

Whom will we meet?

Each day is a mystery.

But there are some things we know.

**No matter what happens,
no matter which neighbours we meet,
no matter what we are called to do—**

God's love goes with us.

God's love is within us.

God's love lives between us.

Thanks be to God!

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: "***Come Down O Love Divine*** (VU 367, vs 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER:

ALL: Thank you, God-of-All!

**Thank you for the people who are in my life,
young and old, big and small,
happy and sad,**

here, and there, and all around your world.

Thank you for their wisdom;

thank you for their joy;

thank you for their questions;

thank you for the life they share.

Thank you, God-of-All,

for the love that is in their lives,

and for the love that is in me:

a love filled with hope and possibility,

a love ready to heal, to share, to transform,

and to make new.

Thank you, God-of-All.

Now. Always. Forever!

In Christ's name we pray.

Amen!

CELEBRATIONS: (*Birthdays, anniversaries, etc.*)

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: "**Now Thank We All Our God**" (VU 236)

INVITATION TO PRAYER: "**God of the Bible**" (MV 28, v 1)

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 **Robert Wanner, MLA and Hope Street Church (Pastor Murray Kumm)**

South Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for **all churches celebrating World Communion Sunday & The World Council of Churches**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

ALL: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: **Luke 10:25–37**

HYMN: "**My Love Colours Outside the Lines**" MV 138)

LEARNING TOGETHER (Children's Time):

MEDITATION: "**Let Thanksgiving Flow**"

✠HYMN: "**For the Healing of the Nations**" (VU 678, vs 1 and 4)

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

✠DOXOLOGY: "**For Food in a World**" (VU 552)

✠DEDICATION:

God, who gives to life its goodness,
God, creator of all joy,
we return to you the goodness you have given us,
the work of our hands,
the love of our hearts.

Help us to use all of these gifts,
wherever they are needed,
to bring hope and healing,
possibility and love,
to our neighbours near and far.

As Jesus' people, we ask it—amen!

COMMUNION:

INVITATION TO THE TABLE (Written by Bob Root, Gathering Pentecost 2 2018 p 64.)

✠HYMN: **"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"** (VU 468)

UCC Creed (spoken, standing)

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: We praise you O God for your faithfulness to us over the ages -- for making Abraham and Sarah the parents of many nations -- for leading Miriam and Moses through the wilderness. When their followers turned away from you and closed their ears to your words, you did not abandon them. Through the prophets and apostles you recalled them as you recall us to your saving love, made known to us through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. And so, with all the company of heaven and earth we rejoice before you and praise your holy name.

We gather at this table set with ordinary things; common bread, a common cup, candles and cloth, symbols of our ordinary lives, to celebrate the extraordinary covenant you have given us that makes us your people.

ALL: You have made us a people with many different skin colours, many different languages, many different lifestyles, many different life experiences, many different abilities and limitations, many different ways to respond to your love in our lives.

One: Today we unite with people of faith on all continents celebrating the simple grandeur of your grace.

ALL: Guide us, we pray, so that the ways we live our everyday lives in all the small things we do and say may be transformed to be exceptional ways that your love and grace, your peace and justice may be known in all the places of the world.

One: For as often as we eat this bread and drink the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. We remember and we give thanks for such outpouring of love, such revelation of your self emptying compassion. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ, enabling us to participate in his life and he in ours.

In His name we pray Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING THE WINE

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Written by Gord Dunbar, Gathering, Pentecost 2 2018, p 65)

Self-giving Christ, you have hosted us at your table,

Feeding us with the bread of life, nourishing us with a cup of blessing. In a moment of silence, let us imagine our sisters, brothers, and siblings in Christ – peoples of the world gathered with us – pondering beside us your transformation into one (silent prayer)

We thank you, living God, that by the Spirit, we discover you, face to face, in our neighbours, in our friends, in our enemies, and in the faces of strangers. Too soon we rise, but you are ever with us, transforming and blessing.

Thank you. Amen.

✠CLOSING HYMN: **"For the Fruit of All Creation"** (VU 227)

✠COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION:

Let us go into God's world
to be the neighbours God calls us to be.
Let us go into God's world

loving God,
loving our neighbours,
loving ourselves.
In word and in action.
And in that love,
let us be filled with thanks-giving.
For God goes with us!
We are never, ever alone!
Thanks be to God!

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 969)

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: "***I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me***" (VU 585, vs. 1, sung twice)

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Announcements

The office will be closed Monday, October 8, for the Thanksgiving Statutory Holiday.

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.

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.

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. Tickets are \$18.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children ages 7 – 12, and children under 6 are free. The family rate will be \$50.00 (2 adults and 2 or more children). A Sign-up sheet for other food 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 October are allocated to the Haitian Coffee Fund.

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:

Al Olson

Scripture Reader:

Hayley McKim

Greeters:

Everett & Clara White

Coffee Hosts

Dale & Lenora Stein

Sound

Pat Evans

PowerPoint Operator

Kathy Nielsen