



# ***Westminster United Church***

## **Worship Service for October 14, 2018**

Loving Our Neighbours: Living Our Mission Locally

Today's Worship Leader is Donna Scharf

A warm welcome to each and every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Today is the start of our stewardship series: Called to be the Church - Loving Our Neighbours. That is the reason for your information envelopes and we will discuss the contents later in the service.

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: The beginning of a line is a single point.

**ALL: The beginning of a library is just one book.**

One: The beginning of a journey is a single step.

**ALL: The beginning of a flood is one drop of water.**

One: The beginning of God's Kingdom is in each decision we make, to live God's love;

**ALL: in reaching out to those around us, to bring food to those who are hungry, and water to those who thirst;**

One: in reaching out to those around us, to shelter and clothe those who are naked, to visit the sick and those imprisoned;

**ALL: in reaching out to those around us, we worship God.**

One: We worship God.

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

One: A keeper of the Law walked up to Jesus and asked him,

**ALL: Teacher, what is the greatest commandment?**

One: Jesus replied,

**ALL: "Love God with all that you are."**

One: As the man turned away to think about what he had heard, Jesus said,

**ALL: "Wait! There is a second one just like the first: Love your neighbour in the same way you are to love yourself." (*Lighting the candle*)**

One: This Great Commandment shines on, and shines through, all things: the writings of the Law, the words of the prophets, every moment of our lives!

**ALL: In every moment, Christ's light shines! Alleluia!**

### OPENING PRAYER:

One: This is a prayer that calls us to have our eyes and our ears open, watching, listening, and sensing God's presence in the places we live. As you look at each image, think about the people who live, work, or play in that place. Let's pray.

Spirit of Life, Spirit of Christ, open our hearts to your presence, here and everywhere we go.

For people escaping from an abusive or family violence situation, the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter is a safe and caring presence for them. Help us to be caring, too.

**ALL: Help us to be caring, too.**

One: For people who are homeless, the Champion Centre is a place to receive both physical and spiritual nourishment. Help us feed the body and soul, too.

**ALL: Help us feed the body and soul, too.**

One: For people who live in poverty, the Medicine Hat Food Bank is a place to receive food and life skills education. Help us to feed the hungry, too.

**ALL: Help us to feed the hungry too.**

One: For students needing spiritual support, the Medicine Hat College Chaplaincy provides a peaceful and welcoming place for students needing a break from the hectic College environment. Help us to provide a peaceful and welcoming space here, too.

**All: Help us to provide a peaceful and welcoming space here, too.**

One: Spirit of Life, Spirit of Christ, as this community of your people, as Westminster United Church, we pray, knowing that you are with us always, and all ways! Amen.

**ALL: 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: "**Come In, Come In and Sit Down**" (VU 395)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

One: You created us for divine abundance, to tend and share, in every garden, every social structure is your seed to community. But too often we fail to create that community which includes all and gives to all equal access to your abundant life.

**ALL: Forgive us.**

One: We are so blessed to be living in our country and going to our church of choice. We often forget that others don't have these choices. Forgive us.

**ALL: Forgive us.**

One: We think that we really deserve our abundance and comforts, not thinking about the hungry and homeless among us. Forgive us.

**ALL: Forgive us.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the good news: God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ forgives us and sets us free to live full human lives in community. We may go forth confident of the grace to see with new eyes beyond our small world, to have mercy for all, and to create with a new will a community where all are given access to God's abundant life.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

WHY I GIVE: (Al Olson)

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**

One: We do give you thanks, God.

For the neighbours that are in our lives – the ones we understand, and the ones who make us scratch our heads;

The ones who challenge us, and the ones who comfort us when we are afraid. Thank you for the blessing of each and everyone one. We pray for all those who are in need, In whatever way – body, mind or spirit.

We remember, especially... (add your own prayers).

We know that your love is with them.

We ask that you help us to embody that love,

to be where you need us to be,

living the love of neighbour, wherever we go—

and so we pray, day by day—

**ALL: with love and with thanksgiving.**

The Medicine Hat Ministerial Association invites you to pray for **Mayor Dwight Kilpatrick, Redcliff and Holy Family Parish (Fathers Philip Le and Albert Sayson)**

South Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for **All people serving on Conference and National Committees within the United Church**

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: **Matthew 6: 25 - 34**

ANTHEM: "**Sanctuary**"

LEARNING TOGETHER (Children's Time):

I wonder if any of us have ever been really, really hungry. Do any of you know that feeling? When your tummy twists and gurgles and growls because it's so empty? Or maybe even so hungry that your brain stops working right and you feel dizzy?

There may be people here in our congregation who know what it means to go to bed hungry. There are definitely people in our community who do, and there are many who aren't sure when they're going to have their next meal.

Is there anything you notice about this picture? (*Invite comment.*) One thing I notice is that there are two sets of hands on the bowl. People are sharing what they have to make sure everyone has enough. I wonder: what are some of the ways we could share what we have here in (*name of community*) to make sure everyone has enough to be able to live? (*Invite comment with an idea or two of your own.*)

You know, one day, Jesus taught his followers that by sharing what we have with people who didn't have what they needed to live—by being loving and compassionate in practical ways—they weren't just helping and loving that person but also showing compassion and love and care to that person.

Let's see how we put that into action this week. Keep your eyes open for the times when you can show love in a practical way—and then act! Let's see how many ways we can love our neighbour—and love Christ—in the days to come!

MEDITATION:

✠HYMN: "**My Soul Cries Out**" (MV 120)

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

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

✠DEDICATION:

**For all your goodness, God, thank you! For all your abundance, God, alleluia! Help us to use all you have given, with wisdom and compassion, that these gifts might bring healing and hope to your world, to Medicine Hat, and to Westminster United Church. Amen.**

✠CLOSING HYMN: **"We Shall Go Out with the Hope of Resurrection"** (VU 596)

✠COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION:

Go into the world with a daring and a living love. Everywhere you go, serve Christ by serving those in need. Feed those who are hungry and thirsty. Shelter those who are naked. Visit those who are sick or locked away. And know this: not only do you serve; you are served as well. The peace of Christ holds you. The love of the Creator transforms you. And the Holy Spirit carries you— now and forever. Amen.

✠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 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