



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for February 11, 2018

We Sing Thanksgiving: Modelling Gratitude/Communion

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Chelsea Masterman

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: O give thanks to God, for God is good;

ALL: for God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: Who alone does great wonders,

ALL: for God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: Who by understanding made the heavens,

ALL: for God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: Who spread out the earth on the waters,

ALL: for God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: Your decrees are my delight,

ALL: they are my counsellors.

One: The steadfast love of God never ceases.

ALL: Great is your faithfulness, and we will praise God!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We will experience his presence as we share the peace of Christ with one another.

We know that God in Jesus Christ is already here.

Lighting the candle is another way to remind us of Jesus' presence symbolically.

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE:

Loving God may this time be your glory.

Loving God may this time be our growth.

Loving God be with us here in this moment

For it is when we need you most.

Loving God bring your blessing to this service,

Open hearts, open minds, open souls.

Infuse us now with your light and love.

Make us one so we are whole.

OPENING PRAYER:

One: God is creative and self-giving,

ALL: generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe.

One: Nothing exists that does not find its source in God.

ALL: Our first response to God's providence is gratitude.

One: Yet, we choose to turn away from God.

ALL: We sing lament and repentance.

One: God forgives,

ALL: and calls all of us to confess our fears and failings with honesty and humility.

One: God transforms,

ALL: and calls us to protect the vulnerable,

One: to pray for deliverance from evil, to work with God for the healing of the world,

ALL: that all might have abundant life.

One: Thanks be to God.

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: "*If Our God Had Simply Saved Us*" (VU 131, vs 1 - 9)

INVITATION TO PRAYER: "*Christ, Within Us Hidden*" (MV 162, vs 1 &3)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response after each prayer:

One: God of Love

ALL: Hear Our Prayer

HYMN: THE LORD'S PRAYER (vu 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Written by Beth W Johnston, Gathering ACE 2018, p 45*)

ALL: God of the ages, in the pages of Holy Scripture, we find stories that encourage, challenge, and convict us.

Allow the words to speak in us; allow the message to do in us what you need it to do.

As we journey with the words of scripture, help us to become the people you call us to be. Amen.

BIBLICAL NOTES:

SCRIPTURE: **Galatians 5:9**

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: "**Hallelujah/Praise Ye the Lord**"

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 13: 20**

CHORAL RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURES: "**I Know Your Word**" (MV 108)

SERMON: **Gratitude is like Yeast**

†HYMN: "**If Our God Had Simply Saved Us**" (VU 131, vs 10-15)

LIFE & WORK (Announcements)

GRATITUDE MOMENT: **Betty Sidlick**

OFFERTORY

†DOXOLOGY: "**Grant Us, God, The Grace**" (VU 540)

†DEDICATION

All: We are thankful to you, O God.

You have blessed our lives with so many gifts.

May the small token of these gifts offered here

touch the world in ways that yeast works in bread.

May our lives be also touched so that we too are transformed.

Thank you, God! Amen.

A NEW CREED: (VU 918)

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION: ***Singing Gratitude at the Table***

Invitation to the Table

One: When we come together at table, we remember that this is not the table of Westminster United Church congregation or the table of The United Church of Canada. This is God's table, where everyone is welcomed, affirmed, and nourished. Come now, to share at God's table.

Prayer of the Great Thanksgiving

One: May the Giving One be with you,

ALL: and also with you.

One: Offer your hearts with thanksgiving and joy.

ALL: It is right to offer all of ourselves, here on Holy Ground.

One: Give thanks to the Holy One for the gifts of life.

ALL: We give thanks, here and now, as family around the Table of Life.

One: It is right to give thanks for all the good creation around us. We speak of life and love, and here at this table we live out life and love. We celebrate together, as a family around the table set by our Creator, then we carry that life and love into the world, in gratitude, and in generosity—following the example of God-with-Us. So with all our sisters and brothers in the rainbow of faith, we offer our praise.

ALL: With the Church through the ages, we speak of God as one and triune: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We also speak of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; God, Christ, and Spirit; Mother, Friend, and Comforter; Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love, and in other ways that speak faithfully of the One on whom our hearts rely, the fully shared life at the heart of the universe.... Grateful for God's loving action, we cannot keep from singing.

—A Song of Faith

One: The night before his death, Jesus sat at a table with his friends and loved ones at the Passover meal. They had gathered, as was the custom, in Jerusalem. And as they gathered for the meal, he washed the feet of those who were there, demonstrating humility and servant-hood. He showed those gathered there his example for how they should live in the world and treat those around them—that they should hold everything in common and share with everyone equally, so that all would know God had been in that place. Jesus did something else different on this night, something not customary— first he took the bread, broke it, and said, “This bread is my life, given up freely for you. Each time you do this remember me.” Then he poured the wine, took the cup, and said, “This cup is the fruit of the vine, my life, poured out for you and for many. Each time you drink the cup together, remember me.”

Now we pray that you pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. May they so enliven and nourish us that we become a new creation and a new community where everyone is truly welcomed. May the blessing of this diverse body bear much fruit in the world. So with Jesus we break bread, drink the cup, share the meal.

Serving Each Other

Bread for the Journey; Wine of Arrival

Prayer after Communion

All: Loving One, we have been welcomed and nourished by your gifts and your presence. May we leave this table full of joy, energy, and thanksgiving. May we dance and sing as we leave. May we smile and laugh in the goodness of love given and shared. May it be so.

✠CLOSING HYMN: “For the Beauty of the Earth” (226)

✠COMMISSIONING

ALL: Let us go to the world and activate the gratitude we inherited. Make the bread of the world with our gift of yeast so that the God of love and peace may be seen and tasted.

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: “**Go Make a Difference** ” (MV 209, chorus only)

✠BENEDICTION:

One: As you go,

May the Grace of God, the Peace of Christ, and the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit go with you always.

ALL: Amen.

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 969)

Please join us in Memorial Hall for Refreshments and Fellowship

Assisting with the Service This Morning

<i>Elder-in-Charge:</i>	Bob McCaig
<i>Scripture Reader</i>	Margaret Laing
<i>Greeters:</i>	Clara & Everett White
<i>Coffee Hosts:</i>	Dawn Knowles, Boyd & Grace Alcock
<i>Sound Operator:</i>	Melanie Rattai
<i>PowerPoint Operator:</i>	Kathy Nielsen

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 February are allocated to the Westminster UCW.

Announcements

Everyone is invited to attend the 100th Anniversary Celebration Service at Peace United Church in Irvine today at 12:15. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the Communion Service.

The final week of the "We Sing Thanksgiving" evening Bible Study program will be on Tuesday Feb 13 at Grace Lemon's home. Please talk to Grace, Chelsea or Cheryl in the Westminster office if you plan to attend. Last week we watched a wonderful video on gratitude: "Gratitude: Moving Art" by Louie Schwartzberg. Check it out at <https://youtu.be/nj2ofrX7jAk>.

The 2017 Annual Report is available in the Narthex and on the ramp, if you would like to take on to read. It is also on the church's website, under the Information Tab.

There will be a potluck lunch following the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 25, 2018. The sign-up sheet is in Memorial Hall.

Journey of Reconciliation Conference, February 14-17, 2018 at Medicine Hat College. This four-day FREE conference is intended to engage participants in a collective journey of reconciliation. Through community ceremony, collective sharing, engagement and hands-on teachings, participants will be invited to walk a path together in learning about our shared history and what our roles are and can be in reconciliation. Participants are welcome to attend the entire conference or select sessions and/or activities. Registration is only required for the Sacred Fire lunch (Feb. 14) and conference sessions (Feb. 16). For details on the Conference, see the poster on the Bulletin Board by Memorial Hall. You can also check out the website at www.mhc.ab.ca/AboutMHC/CampusAmenities/Event-Calendar/Events/ReconciliationConference

It's Newsletter time again! I welcome a variety of submissions — on any topic that you think would be of interest to our congregation. Deadline for submissions will be Monday, February 26th. You may send your items electronically to annah@telusplanet.net or drop a copy of your article in my mailbox on the ramp going into the sanctuary. I thank you in advance for your contributions, and I look forward to receiving lots of interesting items!
— Anna Marie Hancock

It's time to renew your subscription to the Observer Magazine! Please see Jody Davison to renew or cancel your subscription, or to sign up for a subscription. The cost is \$25.00 for 12 issues. If you would like to review a copy before making a decision, editions from previous years are available on the ramp going toward Memorial Hall. You are welcome to take one home with you to review.

Messy Church Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13 (Shrove Tuesday) from 5:00 – 7:00 pm in Memorial Hall. Come on down, old and young to enjoy crafts, informal worship and pancakes !

The UCW will be having a Chili Lunch on Sunday, February 18, following the worship service.

The Mission and Outreach Committee invite you to participate in a "**Birthday Bag Campaign**" during the season of Lent. Bring a small birthday bag with a cake mix, icing and candles and leave it in the Food Bank box. We will deliver to be used by families with children with birthdays.

Rev. Jan Stevenson will be facilitating "**Mindful Meditation**" Thursdays from 12:05 to 12:55 pm February 15 through March 22 at Westminster United Church. Take time to be attentive to your spiritual well-being with simplicity, silence and contemplation. Spiritual explorations and group meditation mentored by Dom John Main OSB, originator of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM.org)

World Day of Prayer takes place this year on Friday, March 2. The service will be held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (758 - 8th Street SE) at 7 pm.

2018 LENTEN EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES

Date	Time:	Host congregation	Guest Preacher
Feb 14 (Ash Wednesday)	7:00 pm	Unity Lutheran (8 Palliser Place N.E.)	Rev. Jeff Lackie
Feb 21	7:00 pm	Fifth Avenue Memorial (476 4th Street S.E.)	Rev. Oz Lorentzen
Feb 28	7:00 pm	St. Peter Lutheran (758 8th Street S.E.)	Rev. Jeff Decelle
March 7	7:00 pm	St. John's Presbyterian (504 2nd Street S.E.)	Rev. Dave Pollard
March 14	7:00 pm	Westminster United (101 6th Street S.E.)	Rev. Shane Hein
March 21	7:00 pm	St. Barnabas Anglican (635 4th Street S.E.)	Rev. Chelsea Masterman