



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for March 25, 2018

Palm Sunday/Communion

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Jan Stevenson

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: God calls us to go and find, and so we seek God's will.

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God

One: God provides what is needed for our tasks and labours.

All: Blessed is the coming reign of God.

One: In the midst of our questions and uncertainty, God is revealed to us.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

One: Come, let us worship God.

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: "***Throughout These Lenten Days***" (VU 108, vs 1, 6)

OPENING PRAYER:

One: God of love and compassion, we celebrate your joyful and disruptive entry into Jerusalem.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

One: In that same way we anticipate, with expectant hearts, your presence in this place.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

One: We come, knowing your love has arrived and is made manifest in Jesus the Christ.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

One: We come, prepared to be changed by the grace we receive in your love.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

One: We come, with our whole being to prepare the way for the coming of love incarnate.

All: Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! 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: "***Ride On, Ride On, the Time is Right***" (VU 126)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

South East Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for those battling forest fires and those who have lost homes to forest fires

Response after each prayer:

One: God of Love; **ALL: Hear Our Prayer**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (*Written by Beth Johnston, Gathering L/E 2018 p. 36. Used with permission*)

ALL: God of the Ages, We come to you this day to confess the ways in which we have failed to live up to what we profess to believe.

We have shouted 'hosanna' one day and 'crucify him' the next.

We have professed undying loyalty one hour and denied even knowing Jesus the next.

We follow Jesus only when it is convenient. Forgive us. Restore us. Strengthen us to follow the path of faith.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION:

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

All: As we are drawn into the excitement of the great parade, Holy One, overwhelm our Hosannas so that we can hear your Word proclaimed. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 118 1-2, 19-29** (VU 837 parts 1,3 & 4)

ANTHEM: "***On the Road to Jerusalem***"

SCRIPTURE: **Mark 1: 1 - 11**

CHORAL RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURES: "***Wonder and Stare***" (VU 118)

SERMON: "***The Great Parade!***"

✠HYMN: "***They Crucified My Lord***" (VU 141)

LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY

✠DOXOLOGY: "***We Give You But Your Own***" (VU 542)

✠DEDICATION

One: Holy One, you are generous in the blessing that you bestow upon us.

ALL: We receive the gift of time to be intentional with how our time is used.

One: We receive the gift of talent that our skills may be used for creative and restorative purposes.

ALL: We receive the gift of income, to share with those in need, to support ministries in this place, in our community, and in the world, and to build your kin-dom here on Earth.

One: Grant that the gifts we bring this day may be used for your glory and not our own.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

A NEW CREED (Choral): (VU 918)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

One: You are the God of hope and the God of promise. When there was nothing, you created everything.

All: And it was good.

One: When we broke your commands, you gave us second chances. You made covenants and placed rainbows in the sky.

All: And it was good.

One: When we wandered from your ways, when we ignored the voices of the prophets you called us home

All: And it was not good.

One: We rebelled. We ignored you. We did what we wanted. But you kept your promises. Promises to make great nations. Promises to further the generations of your people. And you sent a child, born in a stable, to keep them. You showed your love for us through the promises this child made and kept.

All: And it was good.

One: Jesus taught us what your love looks like. Your love for others, your love for us. Jesus taught us how to live. In this your biggest promise yet, Jesus promised to restore us to you. And he did.

All: And it was good.

One: Thank you, for the promises made and kept in his body and in his blood. Thank you for the gifts of grape and grain here today. May they for us be the body and blood of Jesus. May they feed

us, and call us out to serve. To tell of the promises you made, God, And to tell of the promises you kept. Amen

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace, we thank you for the bread and cup that recall Jesus into our midst. In this week of grief and awe, we trust you will walk with us until we, too, find ourselves outside and empty tomb. Amen

✠CLOSING HYMN: "**All Glory, Laud and Honour**" (VU 122)

✠COMMISSIONING (*Adapted from Frances Flook, Gathering L/E 2018 p. 36, Used with permission*)

One: Blessed is Jesus who comes in God's name to bring new life to the world.

ALL: Blessed are we who have discovered the gift and promise of Christ

One: Let us now go forth, showing our gratitude and our joy, in service of Christ's life, death and resurrection

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: "**I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**" (VU 575 ,Vs 1 &3)

✠BENEDICTION:

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 974)

Please join us in Memorial Hall for the UCW Egg Bun Luncheon!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

<i>Elder-in-Charge:</i>	Al Olson
<i>Scripture Reader:</i>	Murray Bell
<i>Greeters:</i>	Everett and Clara White
<i>Coffee Hosts:</i>	UCW (Egg Bun Luncheon)
<i>Sound System 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 March are allocated to the Haitian Coffee Fund.



MESSAGE FROM CHELSEA: I made an error in the altogether amusing and engaging but not altogether accurate story I told about Martin Luther on Sunday March 18! For a correction of the tale, there are copies of a revised version of the sermon for those who might be interested. They are in the narthex/entrance of the sanctuary. Please accept my apologies for the initial inaccuracy!

Announcements

THINK SPRING!!The Sunday School is once again selling Vesey’s Spring Bulbs and Seeds, this year as a fundraiser for Vacation Bible School. Fifth Avenue Memorial, Gordon Memorial and Peace United Churches are also participating in the fundraiser. Catalogues are available on the ramp and on the bulletin board.

There are numerous members of the congregation who are unable to attend church, and the visits from the Pastoral Care Visitation volunteers once every two month is much appreciated by them. If you would be interested in taking on two or three members to visit, please contact Betty Sidlick, Rev. Chelsea Masterman, or the office for details.

You are invited to the Peace United Church in Irvine “Spring Supper” (Ham, Sausage, perogies). Sunday, April 8th, 4:30 and 6:00 sittings. There will also be a Bake Sale at the supper. Cost is \$17.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children 6 – 12 years, and free for children under 6 years. Call 403-527-0206 or see Grace Roth for tickets.

The Board of Elders met on Monday, March 19, 2018. Here are some of the highlights of the meeting:

- Cypress Montessori, under new management, has leased the same room as previously used, and is scheduled to start-up on April 1st.
- a SHORT congregational meeting on April 15 will grant Helen Reid the status Minister Emeritus
- Rev Chelsea assures us the next annual congregational meeting will only be 1 hour 15 minutes (1 1/2 hours max). Impressive is her minute by minute time analysis spreadsheet and her creative ideas to shorten it.

2018 LENTEN/HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Date	Time:	Event	Location
Thur. March 29	5:15 p	**Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Supper and Service	Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church
Fri. March 30	10:00 am	Good Friday Worship Service	Gordon Memorial United Church (Redcliff)
Sat. March 31	7:45 pm	Holy Saturday Vigil	St. Barnabas Anglican Church
Sun. April 1	7:00 am	Sunrise Worship Service followed by Pancake Breakfast at Gordon Memorial Church	Lion’s Park (Redcliff)
Sun. April 1	10:25 am	Easter Worship Service	Westminster United Church

****What is Maundy Thursday?**

The word “Maundy” comes to us as an Anglo-French word derived from the Latin “mandatum,” which means “commandment.” It refers to when Jesus, in the Upper Room during the Last Supper, said to the disciples: “A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 13:34, Revised Standard Version).

Most Christian churches in mainline denominations, and some of the more fundamental churches, commemorate Maundy Thursday in some way, but the types of services vary greatly.

Source: www.huffingtonpost.com/william-b-bradshaw/why-do-we-call-it-maundy-thursday-good-friday_b_2955751.html