



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for April 1, 2018

Easter Sunday

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Jan Stevenson

CALL TO WORSHIP:

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE/OPENING HYMN: "**Hallelujah, Hallelujah**" (VU 179)

OPENING PRAYER:

ALL: Holy Hallelujah! We come in astonishment, wonder and praise to the empty tomb. We bring our questions and doubts, confident that our encounter with the Risen Christ will be a life-changing experience. Hold us in your loving arms, Holy One; relieve our fears and welcome us into resurrection living. Amen

CELEBRATIONS (Birthdays, anniversaries, etc.):

We celebrate with you, we celebrate with you
May God richly bless you, We celebrate with you!

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.

INVITATION TO PRAYER (spoken)

One: Come, God's people gathered together

ALL: We come with our prayers of joy and concern

One: Let us center our hearts and minds in prayer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

South East Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge, Glenda Wert and Lois Punton

Response after each prayer:

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU 959)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(Written by Wanda Winfield , Gathering L/E 2018, page 43. Used with permission)*

One: Gracious God, in the twilight just before dawn, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb.

ALL: So also do we seek life in shadowed places, within us and in our world.

One: Help us to see miracles where we now see only loss.

ALL: Let us find the living Christ within our hearts and within the world. Amen

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION:

One: Good news! Christ is Risen! Our sins are forgiven! We are made new!

ALL: Christ is risen, risen indeed. Hallelujah!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

One: As we listen, Living God, push us outside the cozy box of routine to hear anew the good news that Christ is risen.

ALL: Indeed and Hallelujah. Amen

BIBLICAL NOTES

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

ANTHEM: **"Joy In the Morning"**

SCRIPTURE: **John 20:1-18**

MEDITATION:

✠HYMN: **"Thine is the Glory"** (VU 173)

MINUTES FOR MISSION

LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY

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

✠DEDICATION

ALL: Creator God, you created the world in love. You see us as your creation. You have made us co-creators with such freedom and ability to make the world our home. Thank you for the opportunities to create, to love, to abide, to bless, and to delight. We live into your Easter promises this day and in the days to come. Amen.

A NEW CREED (Spoken): (VU 918)

✠COMMISSIONING

One: Go from this place, Resurrection People.

Go, be as Jesus to our wounded world

**ALL: We go in humility, trusting in God's power to use us
We commit ourselves anew to follow Jesus' way.**

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: **"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"** (VU 155)

✠BENEDICTION:

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 974)

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:

Marg McCulley

Scripture Reader:

Don Reid

Minutes for Mission Reader

Greeters:

Linda Kisell, Barb Grozell

Coffee Hosts:

Grace, Boyd and Arlayna Alcock

Sound System Operator:

Pat Evans

PowerPoint Operator:

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.

Announcements

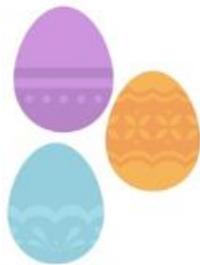
THINK SPRING!! The Sunday School is once again selling Vesey's Spring Bulbs and Seeds, this year as a fundraiser for Vacation Bible School. Fifth Avenue Memorial, Gordon Memorial and Peace United Churches are also participating in the fundraiser. Catalogues are available on the ramp and on the bulletin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

Donations at Coffee Time for April are allocated to the Champion Centre.

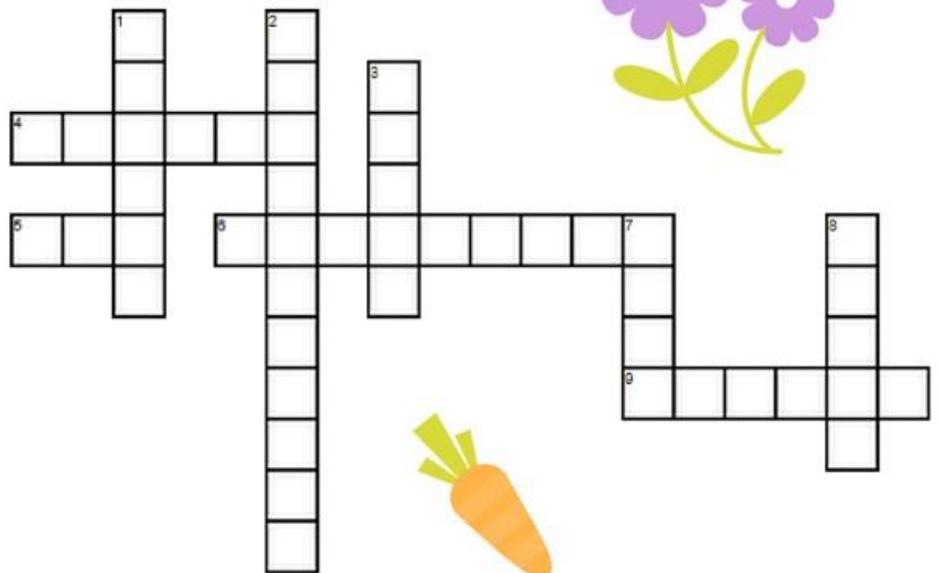
The first Sunday of each Month, all Communion Services, Thanksgiving Sunday, and World Food Sunday non-perishable food items are collected in the wooden box located in the Narthex, for distribution to our local food bank. If you wish, cash or cheque (made payable to M.H. & District Food Bank) donations are also accepted.

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.



Easter Crossword Puzzle



The WOC of **St John's Presbyterian Church** (504-2 Street SE) is holding a **Garage Sale** on Friday, **April 13** from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM and Saturday, **April 14** from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. You will find retro jewellery, china tea cups, furniture, and so much more. *The funds raised are used to support mission and outreach projects.*

Thank you to Jeanine Varty for providing the Italian Easter Snacks for today's coffee time.

The office will be closed Monday, April 1 for the Easter Holiday. If you require urgent pastoral care, please call Rev. Jan Stevenson (403-952-6671) Or Rev. Chelsea Masterman ((403-458-1241)

ACROSS

- 4 A holiday celebrated with egg hunts
- 5 What you do to an Easter egg
- 6 Easter's most eaten candy
- 9 Easter is always in what season?

DOWN

- 1 Egg holder
- 2 A white sticky sweet treat
- 3 A soft yellow animal that chirps
- 7 What you hunt for
- 8 Easter's mascot

Today' Minute for Mission: Access to Safe Water

Our gifts for Mission & Service provide water. Water is a gift of God and a fundamental human right. Getting water remains a gruelling chore for many in the Global South, who may spend much of their day hauling water from distant sources to meet their families' needs. Access to water affects every part of daily life. Mission & Service partner People's Action Forum is working hard to address these challenges in rural Zambia.

From 2015 to 2016, People's Action Forum tripled the number of boreholes it was able to drill from 10 to 30. It says, "The list of needy communities is always longer than what can be provided in any given year. Every single additional well that can be provided keeps a community from waiting another whole year on the waiting list." Boreholes are often drilled close to community hubs like schools, making access as broad as possible.

Near the town of Mumbwa Chipu, the primary school has 620 children enrolled. Head teacher Fredah Kafuti talks about the positive difference a borehole drilled by People's Action Forum has made. Before the borehole was drilled, staff and students had a four-kilometre walk to the closest water supply. Now students have ready access to safe drinking water and have been able to establish small vegetable gardens for the school feeding program.

Fredah says, "These are vulnerable children. They live in poverty, which makes the school's feeding program crucial. Education will give them a chance for a better life." The borehole, she added, is helping the school serve that most important purpose.

Mission & Service is making a difference in rural Zambia.

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.

