



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for April 8, 2018

Easter 2

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Chelsea Masterman

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: We have seen, and we have heard:

All: Christ is risen!

One: The cross and tomb are empty.

All: Christ is risen!

One: The disciples saw his hands.

All: Christ is risen!

One: They saw his side.

All: Christ is risen!

One: Love has come to life.

All: We come to worship the risen Christ who is risen indeed!

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: "*Jesus, Stand among us*" (VU 396 vs 1&2)

OPENING PRAYER:

All: Redeeming God, Christ commissioned disciples to offer peace and forgiveness in his name. As we celebrate the good news of resurrection, empower us to be better able to testify to the life that is revealed in Christ. May we find forgiveness and peace this day. 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: "*Joyful, Joyful*" (VU 232)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

In Christ's resurrection, we are made whole. That is the good news of the Easter season. The love of Christ heals us where we are broken, and returns us to God when we stray. As we confess our uncertainties and our brokenness, we affirm what Christ offers us. Let us pray:

One: When we need proof of you in the world,

All: you offer your breath.

One: When we hold too tight to the past,

All: you offer your grace.

One: When we cling to old hurts,

All: you offer your love.

One: When we use our words and actions to wound others

All: you offer your healing.

One: When we fail to forgive those who hold our past against us,

All: you offer your hope.

One: When we hurt others, with or without intention,

All: you offer your peace.

One: When we separate ourselves from you,

All: you offer your forgiveness, redeeming Christ, you bring us back to you. You open closed hearts and heal injured souls. It is through your love and forgiveness that we find healing and freedom. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: It is through the risen Christ that we are given redemption. It is through the risen Christ that we are made whole. It is through the risen Christ that we are forgiven. As the people of God, live healed and live forgiven!

INVITATION TO PRAYER:

One: Friends, Christ breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Breathe in the Spirit of God. Breathe out what separates you from that spirit. Breathe in the peace of Christ. Breathe out all that causes you to not be at peace. Breathe in the forgiveness of Christ. Breathe out the forgiveness you cannot offer; the sins you retain. Breathe in the love of Christ. Breathe out your anger, sin, and pain. Breathing God, we inhale, and the lungs you created are filled with your spirit. We exhale and release [our burdens.]

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

South East Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for Pincher Creek, Mountain Mill & Cowley United Churches & Judith Walker

Response after each prayer:

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

BIBLICAL NOTES

SCRIPTURE: **Acts 4:32-35**

SCRIPTURE: **1 John 1:1-2:2**

MEDITATION:

✠HYMN: "**God is Here**" (VU 389)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: *(Video)*

LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY

✠DOXOLOGY: "**God of All Good**" (VU 539, vs. 3)

✠DEDICATION

ALL: We thank you, God, for the gifts we return to you. You asked us to give what we have for the good of all, and our offering is but one way we do that. Guide our work, that it will help to bring your work, your peace, and your presence to the world. We dedicate the offerings of our lives to the work of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

A NEW CREED (Spoken): (VU 918)

CLOSING HYMN: "**We Shall go out with Hope of Resurrection**" (VU 586)

✠COMMISSIONING

We have prayed, we have sung. We have spoken, we have listened. We have wrestled with doubts and received Christ's peace and forgiveness. Go out this day, carrying Christ's peace and

forgiveness with you. Offer them to all you encounter who are in need of them. Go, continuing to celebrate the resurrection of the living, risen Christ!

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: "**You shall go out with Joy**" (VU 884)

✠BENEDICTION:

**ALL: May the love of God fill your heart, and mine
May the peace of Christ be with you, and me
May the power of the Holy Spirit move through us and within us
Now and always
Amen.**

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 974)

Acknowledgements: The liturgy for this morning's service is from Seasons of the Spirit, Lent/Easter 2018, April 8/18.

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:

Scripture Reader:

Greeters:

Coffee Hosts:

Sound System Operator:

PowerPoint Operator:

Jennifer Oster

Sharon Clay

Linda Kisell, Doris Kornelson

Charlene Andreas

Pat Evans

Kathy Nielsen

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CAN YOU SCROLL BACK UP?

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

This is the last week to place your order for Vesey's Spring Bulbs and Seeds. We will let you know when your order arrives (usually the first week in May). Many thanks to all who supported this fundraiser for Vacation Bible School. Catalogues and order forms are available on the ramp and on the bulletin board.

There will be a special (10 minute) congregational meeting on Sunday, April 15, 2018, to appoint the Reverend Helen Reid as Minister Emeritus to Westminster United Church. The UCW will be preparing egg buns for lunch after church.

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

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.*

Let's Do Lunch at Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church on **April 28, 11:30 – 1:30pm**. Adults \$10.00, Under 12 \$5.00. If you have items for the bake table or White Elephant Table, please contact Maureen at Fifth Avenue Memorial (403-526-2273).

Today's Minutes for Mission: Organ Donation across "Enemy Lines"

Our gifts for Mission & Service support health and peace and the breaking down of barriers to peace. In the Holy Land, bringing ordinary Israelis and Palestinians peacefully together is extremely difficult in such a tense and violent environment. But the International Christian Committee in Israel (ICCI) does just that.

Along with Palestinian girls' empowerment programs in Arab towns in Acre, the ICCI brings Palestinians and Israelis together through a variety of programs, from academic conferences to supporting inter-ethnic organ donation. As Hussam Elias, ICCI's Executive Secretary, says, "Arabs and Jews are not 'doomed' to live together but should live together."

The medical expenses related to organ donation in Israel are covered by the state; the ICCI raises awareness and organizes conferences to break down the social barriers and conflicting ideas about organ transplants that have been in place across cultures. Often, people only want to donate within their own ethnicity.

As a result of the support of the ICCI and other organizations, Israeli and Palestinian families come together in very unique, life-giving situations.

One Arab youth was killed in a car accident, and his family donated his heart to a Jewish person; when the boy's mother met the recipient, they hugged, and she said it felt like she was hugging her son. In another case, a Jewish family donated the liver of a relative to a young Arab man. When he got married, he invited his donor's family, and the wedding photos show them all together as one big family.

As a piece of anonymous street art in the city of Haifa says, "This is for the organ donors, reminding us all that we won't be strangers for long."

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.