



# *Westminster United Church*

Worship Service for April 15, 2018

Easter 3

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Chelsea Masterman

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: We still tell the good news!

Left side: Rejoice in our God always, again I say rejoice.

One: The tomb was empty, and Jesus appeared to them.

Right side: Rejoice in our God always, again I say rejoice.

One: Jesus gives peace to the people.

Left side: Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice!

One: Jesus says, "Don't be afraid."

Right side: Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice!

One: We are here to hear the good news, so we can tell others!

**All (sung): Rejoice in our God always, again I say rejoice.**

**Rejoice in our God always, again I say rejoice.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice.**

**Rejoice in our God always, again I say rejoice.**

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

## OPENING PRAYER:

**All: God of joy, repentance, and comfort, we need you today. As we continue to celebrate the good news of the Resurrection, we remember times when it was hard news to believe. As we come and worship you this day, may we leave our doubts and fears with you, and enter into a time of joy. May we see your love come to life in all we do today. 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: "**This is the Day that God has Made**" (VU 175)

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**All: God, we break your laws.... Sometimes intentionally, sometimes unintentionally. We do not care for one another as you taught us to do. We prioritize the things of this world over the things of your world. We are afraid even though you tell us not to be. We forget to be joyful when you show up when we need you. We say we are sorry, and sometimes aren't. God, help us to be sincere and authentic when we are sorry, grant us a spirit of courage in the face of fear. May we change our ways and live out your love, as Christ lived and taught.**

*Reflection in silence.*

## WORDS OF AFFIRMATION:

One: As Easter people, we know what Christ has done for all.

**ALL: We celebrate this good news with joy and delight!**

INVITATION TO PRAYER:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Medicine Hat Ministerial Association invites you to pray for **Glen Motz**, our local MP, and **Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church (Rev. David Pollard)**  
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:

**ALL: Child of God, as you opened the minds of the disciples to new truths and knowledge, while we listen to the scripture today please open our minds to you, your wisdom and love. Amen.**

BIBLICAL NOTES

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 4** (VU p. 727)

ANTHEM: "**The Lord is My Shepherd**"

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 24:36b-48**

MEDITATION:

✠HYMN: "**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**" (VU 333)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: (*Video*)

LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY

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

✠DEDICATION

**ALL: Receive our gifts, almighty God. We offer them as we offer ourselves, fully. We pray that they would enable this community of faith to serve all of your people. May it make us better friends, may it make us better able to open up seats at the table and offer breakfast to those who need it. Amen.**

A NEW CREED (Spoken): (VU 918)

CLOSING HYMN: "**Christ Within Us Hidden**" (MV 162)

✠COMMISSIONING

One: We still tell the Good News!

Left side: We shall go out with joy!

One: The tomb was empty, and Jesus appeared to them

Right side: We shall be led forth with peace!

One: Jesus gives peace.

Left side: The mountains and the hills will break forth before us.

One: Jesus says "Don't be afraid."

Right side: There will be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands!  
One: In times of disbelief, in times of strife, in times of wondering, Jesus shows up. When we need a friend, Jesus shows up. The good news of Easter is that love came to life, and that love is Jesus Christ showing up when we need him most. This is but some of the good news. Go and share it!

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

✠BENEDICTION: (*Based on 1 John 2:1*)

One: See what love Abba God has given us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are. Receive this love, breathe this love, be this love. Amen.

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 974)

*Acknowledgements: Much of the liturgy for this morning's service is from Seasons of the Spirit, Lent/Easter 2018, April 15/18.*

### ***Assisting with the Service This Morning***

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<b><i>Elder-in-Charge:</i></b>	Marg McCulley
<b><i>Scripture Reader:</i></b>	Grace Alcock
<b><i>Greeters:</i></b>	John & Betty Sidlick
<b><i>Coffee Hosts:</i></b>	UCW
<b><i>Sound System Operator:</i></b>	Pat Evans
<b><i>PowerPoint Operator:</i></b>	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 April are allocated to the Champion Centre.

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** to appoint the Reverend Helen Reid as Minister Emerita to Westminster United Church. Meeting led by Margaret Taylor, Congregational Chair. Recording secretary is Grace Alcock.

**MOTION: that Helen Reid be named Minister Emerita for Westminster United Church.**

***Please join us in Memorial Hall for the UCW Egg Bun Luncheon and to celebrate the Reverend Helen Reid's appointment as Minister Emerita!***

# *Announcements*

**Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 pm:** MHC Adult Concert Choir proudly presents: *From the Sublime to the Ridiculous: Mozart to Whitacre to Gilbert & Sullivan* at Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church. Free admission.

**Sunday, April 22, 10:25 am:** Camp Sunday!! We are pleased to have Dave Fletcher from Camp Shagabec join us for the service. We invite you to get in the spirit and wear your camping gear! Worship service will be followed by a hot dog lunch, with proceeds going directly to Camp Shagabec.

**Saturday, April 28, 11:30 – 1:30 pm:** *Let's Do Lunch* at Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church. 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).

**Saturday, May 5, 2018, 2- 4 pm:** *Spring Tea and Bake Sale* at St. Barnabas Church (635 4 Street SE). Book Table and Jewellery Table

**Sunday, May 27, 7:00 pm** Great Plains Concert, featuring Darrell and Saskia. They will be performing a variety of songs, including some Gospel songs. This couple performed at Westminster United Church a few years ago, and they put on an amazing concert! Tickets are \$15.00 each. Details on where to get your tickets coming next week, but reserve the night in your calendars! *Sponsored by the Committee to Find a Way to Feed the Cow.*

## TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION: **Mission & Service 101**

Have you ever wondered what Mission & Service really is? Where did it come from? Well, I am going to tell you!

Mission & Service is how we live out the call of the church to do God's mission.

Mission & Service wasn't always called Mission & Service. Before 1925, the three original denominations that joined to create The United Church of Canada—Presbyterians, Methodists, and Congregationalists—saw mission as an important part of church life and supported it in many ways.

Since church union, the name for the way we support the mission and service of the church has gone through many changes: first came the Woman's Missionary Society along with the Home and Global Mission Boards, then the Missionary and Maintenance Fund, and later the Mission and Service Fund. Now, it is simply the Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada.

Mission & Service is not a separate fund within the church. It is the foundation of how we offer healing and hope in a hurting world. Mission & Service supports education programs; women's empowerment; food, housing support, and advocacy to alleviate poverty; assistance for theological students, lay leaders, and camping; congregational support; healing the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people; youth programming like Rendez-vous, and much more!

Mission & Service is the heart and soul of The United Church of Canada. If you already give, thank you so much. If you do not give, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith!

Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.