



# *Westminster United Church*

Worship Service for April 29, 2018

Easter 5

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Chelsea Masterman

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: In some parts of the world, today feels like spring.

**All: We worship the God of new life.**

One: In some parts of the world, today feels like summer.

**All: We worship the God of growth.**

One: In some parts of the world, today feels like autumn.

**All: We worship the God of the harvest.**

One: In some parts of the world, today feels like winter.

**All: We worship the God of rest.**

One: We worship the God that is with us around the globe and here in this place.

**All: We worship the God of all seasons.**

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

## OPENING PRAYER:

**All: Guide us in our worship today, Holy Spirit. As we hear words of love and challenge, move through us calling us to act upon them. As we sing praises, may our hearts be lightened. Inspire us to reconnect with you in ways we never imagined possible; to be changed because we have been here to worship our God. 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: "**For the Fruit of All Creation**" (VU 227)

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**All: You call us beloved, and tell us to love one another, God of love. You tell us that we are liars if we claim to love you and not each other. Yet, we lie. We claim to love you and we exclude others from that love. We are called to bear fruit, and yet often do not want to go through the growth process that takes. We would rather go our own ways than be cultivated to grow in your way. Forgive our resistance to your work. Help us to yield to your will. May we see the areas where we need to be pruned, and accept that work gracefully. May we offer your love to all, not just those we think deserve it. Give us true words to speak when we proclaim your love. Amend our lives so that the fruit we bear in you is sweet for all who encounter it. Amen. [silence for reflection] –**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: The good news of this day is that we are called to a new and different life in Jesus Christ, and Christ freely gives us the reconciliation we need to enter into that life. It is through Christ that we are forgiven. The good news of this day is that we are always God's children, we are always in God's family, and God always welcomes us home. In Jesus Christ we find forgiveness. Thanks be to God.

## INVITATION TO PRAYER:

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Response after each prayer:

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

Child: South East Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for the **Foremost Pastoral Charge & Pastoral Charge Supervisor, Pauline Bell**

Child: The Medicine Hat Ministerial Association invites you to pray **for Robert Wanner, MLA, and Whispering Pines (Jeff & Jana Hickey)**

HYMN: "THE LORD'S PRAYER" (VU 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

**All: Give us open ears and hearts to hear your words today, Loving God. Through the gift of your word, may we hear your call to us to inclusion. Give us deep roots, grounded in your love as we continue to heed the call to follow you. Amen.**

BIBLICAL NOTES:

SCRIPTURE: **Acts 8: 26 – 40**

ANTHEM: "**Open Prayer**"

SCRIPTURE: **John 15: 1 - 8**

MEDITATION:

†HYMN: "**Like A Healing Stream**" (MV 144)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **Supporting People Entering Ministry**

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

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

†DEDICATION:

**All: We abide in you, God, and offer you our lives. You use even what is pruned for the growing of your reign. We bring the first fruits of our lives, the first fruits of our vines to you today. We offer them with reverence and awe for the good of your reign. May you use them in ways that bear good fruit. Amen.**

†A NEW CREED (Spoken): (VU 918)

†CLOSING HYMN: "**Love Divine. All Loves Excelling**" (VU 333)

†COMMISSIONING: (1 John 4:21 and Acts 8:39)

One: The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their siblings also. Know this, and go on your way rejoicing.

†SENDING FORTH HYMN: "**You Shall Go Out With Joy**" (VU 884)

†BENEDICTION:

One: From Potawatomi storyteller Ralph Bazhaw: "May the Great Spirit send the warm spring rains to the garden of your soul so that your heart will bloom with love."

**All: May we abide in the love that comes from God above. May we live in love that is as expansive as all creation. May we grow in love that calls us home. May we know that love that blooms from us is Jesus Christ, now and always. Amen.**

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 974)

*Acknowledgements: All prayers except for the commissioning are from Seasons of the Spirit, SeasonsFUSION Lent Easter 2018, April 29, 2018, pp 168-172.*

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

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<b><i>Elder-in-Charge:</i></b>	Arlea Harper
<b><i>Scripture Reader:</i></b>	Murray Bell
<b><i>Minutes for Mission Reader:</i></b>	Sharon Clay
<b><i>Greeters:</i></b>	Linda Kisell & Arlene Scherer
<b><i>Coffee Hosts:</i></b>	Rae Wahl
<b><i>Sound System Operator:</i></b>	Lorenz Fedrau
<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.

***Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!***

## ***Announcements***

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. If you have celebrated a birthday, anniversary, or other special event, please join us in adding to our "Celebrations SandArt". Don't forget to bring a donation for the Food Bank Box!

The Commun-I-Care callers will be contacting our congregation members from April 29 to May 5, to check in with members and share information with them. If you are not receiving a call, and would like to be on the Commun-I-Care calling list, please contact Betty Sidlick or the office. If you no longer wish to receive a call, please let us know as well.

St. Barnabas Church will be providing a meal for the poor and hungry every Saturday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. We are looking for monetary and food donations as we may be seating up to 100 people. Volunteers to help set the meal out are always welcome. Recognition will be given. Please contact Shirley Greenfield by calling or texting 306-314-9016 (Medicine Hat) or by email: shirleyagreenfield@yahoo.com

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Vesey's Bulb Fundraiser. The four churches sold a total of \$1,428.00, of which the churches get half the money. We also had a couple of cash donations, which bring our total to \$750.00 that will be allocated to the Vacation Bible School for 2018. The bulbs are in transit now, and expected to be here on May 3, 2018. You should be able to pick up your order on Sunday, May 6. Happy planting, everyone!

**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

**Saturday, May 5th -- 5 p.m** *Gordon Memorial United Church Spring Supper* (Beef & Yorkshire Pudding) - Adults \$17 -- Children 12 to 6 - \$8 -- 5 and under free. For Tickets call Reita at 403-548-3517.

**Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am:** *Blessing of the Bikes* service at Gordon Memorial United Church in Redcliff.

**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. Tickets can be purchased through the office (Monday to Thursday, 9 am – 4 pm) or through Committee Members. *Sponsored by the Committee to Find a Way to Feed the Cow.*

**Sunday, June 17, 10:25 am:** *Outdoor Worship Service for Westminster United Church.* The service will be held at Kin Coulee Kitchen by the Toboggan Hill this year. Hopefully this location will be more accessible to people (not such a long walk from the service area to the Lunch area).

**Jul 21 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Camp Shagabec** (For Ages: 5-105 years old)

Mark this day in your calendar! Camp Shagabec will celebrate its 80th year with an open house social. From 1-2 there will be tours of camp and activities. From 2-3 there will be a short program and then cake and refreshments. Then there will be a giant group photo followed by time to visit and investigate camp. We are hoping this will be a great reunion of campers and counsellors from past years to reconnect with one another. So, call your friends and make plans to meet at Shagabec's 80th birthday party!

## **Today's Minutes for Mission: *Supporting People Entering the Ministry***

Our gifts for Mission & Service support theological education and support systems for the vocation of ministry. Let's hear this interview with Alana Martin, a candidate for diaconal ministry.

### ***When did you know you were called to ministry?***

I started to feel a sense of a call when I was a teenager, but didn't start discerning what that really meant for me until I was a young adult.

Growing up, my mom was studying to be a diaconal minister and through that exposure I felt a strong connection to that type of ministry.

### ***What is it about diaconal ministry that spoke to your call?***

Education, service, and pastoral care—I feel so called to the ministries diaconal ministers are commissioned to. I also know my ministry will benefit greatly from the diaconal training program.

### ***What are you most excited about in your training for ministry?***

The hands-on practicality of the program, the intense learning circles, and being in the program with other students across The United Church of Canada sharing in community together.

### ***What would you like to say to the people who give to Mission & Service?***

Because of your generous donations, students at the Centre for Christian Studies are able to deepen their theological study and ministry gifts.

I am truly grateful for your support and your endorsement of us to become and continue to be leaders within the church.

Our gifts to Mission & Service support theological schools across the country and people studying to enter ministry in the United Church.

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.