



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for May 13, 2018

Easter 7

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Dr. Bob Cruickshank

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Creator God, parent of the human family,

ALL: we gather to worship you.

One: In baptism, we are called beloved children of yours, and as such,

ALL: we gather to worship you

One: Friends, neighbours, sisters and brothers in faith,

ALL: we gather to worship in song, in prayer, in readings from your story/ our story, in thoughts and reflections. Let us worship God.

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

OPENING PRAYER:

ALL: God, creator of us all, we gather to worship you. We come as individuals, we come in family units, we come as neighbours and friends. We come here where we are known by name – or would like to be known – with all our frailties and strengths.

We gather with kindred spirits who long to live faithful to your calling. Guide us, inspire us, challenge us, comfort us, and nurture us in this time of worship, so that we might return to our daily lives ready to engage fully with all of your creation. So we pray, 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: "*I Am a Child of God*" (MV 157)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

ALL: O God, you know how hard it is for us to live in relationship and community, and yet you call us to do just that. At times it is hard for us to be fully present to others in our own families, and within our Christian family, the Church.

Our patience may be short, we sometimes don't really listen, we may be tired or angry, lonely or anxious...whatever it is that keeps us from loving and caring for one another.

Help us to know that you are always with us, loving us so that we may love others.

Aware of Jesus' forgiveness and mercy, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION:

One: Through all the joys and all the struggles of living in relationship, one truth is offered to each and every one of us: God has loved us, is loving us, and will always love us.

Thanks be to God for this unending and undeserved gift of love!

INVITATION TO PRAYER:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Response after each prayer:

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

Child: The Medicine Hat Ministerial Association invites you to pray for **Councillor Shawna Cockle, Redcliff and All Saints Anglican Church(The Rev's Guy Snell and Gloria Schirok)**

Child: South East Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for the **Fort Macleod Pastoral Charge, Erasmus Johannes Van Zyl**

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

One: O God of story, in the beginning you created. The Bible contains your story of love and encouragement and challenge, to your creation, to your children, and to your Church. Today may our hearts and minds be open to hear what your Spirit is saying to the Church – and to each of us. Amen.

BIBLICAL NOTES:

SCRIPTURE: **Acts 1: 1-11**

ANTHEM: "**A Welcome Place**"

SCRIPTURE: **John 17: 6-19**

MEDITATION: "**Family Business**"

✠HYMN: "**I Have Called You By Your Name**" (MV 161)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **A Life of Giving in Action** (*Video*)

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

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

✠DEDICATION: (*VU 544*)

ALL: In gratitude and humble trust, we bring our best today, to serve your cause and share your love, with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your son, teach us to give ourselves each day, until life's work is done. Amen

✠A NEW CREED (Spoken): (VU 918)

✠CLOSING HYMN: "**Would You Bless Our Homes and Families**" (VU 556)

✠COMMISSIONING:

One: Come like a mother, O God, as an enfolding, nurturing presence; come as steadfast love to hold us.

ALL: Come like a mother, O God, as an enabling, strengthening force; come as tough love to let us find our wings.

One: Come, like a mother, O God, as friend and comforter, healing our wounds, walking our way; come as wounded healer, to make us whole.

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

✠BENEDICTION:

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 974)

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:	Al Olson
Scripture Reader:	Sandra McDonald
Greeters:	Linda Kisell, Al Piotrowski, Lynne Graff
Coffee Hosts:	Wayne & Arlea Harper
Sound System Operator:	Hayley McKim
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.

Donations at Coffee Time for May are allocated to Westminster UCW.

Announcements

Jan and Chelsea are attending the Conference Meeting this weekend. All ministry personnel are **required to attend** the meetings of the Conference as a responsibility of their ministry in The United Church of Canada. This year the Conference meeting and Celebration of Ministry Service will be held at Millennium Place in Sherwood Park. Two persons will be ordained: Stephen Harper and Lisa Waites; and one person will be commissioned to Diaconal Ministry: Tiffany McNaughton. Two persons will be admitted to the Order of Ministry (Ordained) of The United Church of Canada from other denominations: Christian Kakez-A-Kapend and MiYeon Kim. Several retirees will also be celebrated.

Volunteers are needed for the spring church yard cleanup which will be held **Saturday, May 26th starting at 10:00 am**. We will also need some volunteers to help with some minor repairs around the church. Please bring your own tools (rakes, sturdy gloves, toolkits, etc.) Thanks!

Thank you to Hayley McKim for volunteering to operate the sound system during worship service.

If you run into one of our collection counters, please say **THANKS**. We have three sets of counters that rotate, working one month at a time. They give up their coffee time & sometimes a lunch. The counters are:- Stan Bohnet, Rose Connor, Sandra McDonald, Joyce Shannon, and Clara White. Their dedication is appreciated. If anyone would like to join this group, please contact me. ~Donna Scharf, Treasurer.

During the month of May, the UCW is holding a **"Bakeless Bake Sale"**. UCW members donate the amount they would normally spend on baking supplies, and everyone is welcome to donate the amount they would have spent on purchasing baked goods.

Sunday, May 27, 2:00 pm at Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church: Joyful Sound Ladies' Chorus presents "*The Music of Your Heart*", featuring the Kodaly Songsters Children's Choir. Admission at the door \$10

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.*

The Board of Elders will be meeting **Monday, May 28, 2018 at 6:00 pm**, rather than the usual 3rd Sunday of the month, as that is the Victoria Day Stat Holiday.

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: *A Life of Giving in Action*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support overseas personnel like Catherine Christie. We give thanks for their calling and for their giving hearts!

At a recent worship service where Catherine was preaching, she declared, "Here is your Mission & Service giving in action!"

A Bedford, Nova Scotia, native, Catherine recently returned to Canada after many years in Korea serving with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) and the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCKK). Among other tasks, she assisted with English-language communication work to facilitate relationships between the PROK and its partner churches around the world.

The PROK has a central focus on working for justice for all, particularly for those most vulnerable and those who are marginalized; gender justice; justice for the earth; reconciliation and reunification of the divided Korean people; and peace for the Korean peninsula, the Northeast Asia region, and the wider world. Deeply committed to the international ecumenical movement, Catherine worked within the PROK in active solidarity with some 30 partner churches and organizations.

Catherine has a deep passion for the reunification of Korea. She has also been a strong voice for female empowerment in Korea. These two passions led her to participate in a walk in the demilitarized zone between the North and South of Korea with other women activists to illustrate the need for connection between the two regions to bring justice to the entire Korean society. We are thankful that, through Mission & Service, overseas personnel like Catherine have been given the ability to inspire and empower.

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.