



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for May 6, 2018

Easter 6

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Jan Stevenson

CALL TO WORSHIP: (*Scripture quotes from Songs for the Holy One by Thomas Barnett and Donald Patriquin. Based on Psalm 98. Copyright © 2004 Thomas Barnett and Donald Patriquin, Wood Lake Publishing Inc. Used by permission.*)

One: "Sing to the Holy One, sing a new song! The One who has done marvelous things!"

All: We sing with our hearts as we love one another. God's love creates ripples of love.

One: "God remembered the covenant of love and fidelity toward the house of Israel."

All: We rejoice with our lives as we love one another. God's love creates ripples of love.

One: "Sing to the Holy One... Let the sea roar...and the mountains shout together..."

All: We give praise to God with our hearts and our lives as we love one another. God's love creates ripples of love.

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

OPENING PRAYER:

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.

OPENING HYMN: "**In Christ there is no East or West**" (VU 606)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

One: Gracious God, we know what it means to be a friend.

Left: Forgive us for the times when our friendship has faltered.

Right: Forgive us for the times we have forgotten how to be a friend to ourselves.

Left: Forgive us for the times we have forgotten how to be a friend to others.

One: We know what it means to be loved.

Right: Forgive us for the times we forget how to love ourselves.

Left: Forgive us for the times we forget how to love our neighbours.

Right: Forgive us for the times we forget how to love one another.

One: We know what it means to delight in creation.

Left: Forgive us when we forget how to care for your world.

Right: Forgive us when we walk past the litter dropped carelessly.

Left: Forgive us when we run a seemingly endless stream of water.

Right: Forgive us when we accumulate more stuff without thinking of the consequences.

One: We know what it means to show your love.

Left: Forgive us when we forget to help those in need.

Right: Forgive us when we turn away from the needs we see around us.

Left: Forgive us for the times we leave acts of love for another day.

Right: Forgive us when we harbour resentment and hurt instead of letting them go.

One: We know what it means to be forgiven.

Left: Forgive us when we forget how to show forgiveness.

Right: Forgive us when we forget how to pursue justice in love.

Left: Forgive us when we estrange ourselves from others because we feel too guilty or too proud.

One: We know what it means to be gathered.

Right: Forgive us when we forget to extend hospitality and welcome.

Left: Forgive us for closing our doors and shutting down opportunities to be your love in the world.

Right: Forgive us for the times we abandon our call to our neighbours.

All: Amen.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION:

One: God who is pure love offers us love and forgiveness when we confess our sins. Be free, my friends. Our sins are forgiven. Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAYER:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Response after each prayer:

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

Child: South Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for the **Bow Slope Pastoral Charge & Pastoral Charge Supervisor, George Edmonds**

Child: The Medicine Hat Ministerial Association invites you to pray for **Mayor Dwight Kilpatrick, Redcliff and South Country Village (Pastor Bob Church)**

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

One: Holy One, as we listen for your word may it ripple around, through and in us as we are transformed by your infinite love. Amen.

BIBLICAL NOTES:

SCRIPTURE: **Acts 10:44-48**

ANTHEM: "**Holy Manna**"

SCRIPTURE: **John 15:9-17**

MEDITATION: **All You Need is Love**

†HYMN: "**Draw the Circle Wide**" (MV 145)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **A New Approach to Farming**

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

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

†DEDICATION:

One: God, may our friendships be a blessing to all creation. May our words, actions, and deeds serve you. May the gifts of our resources, our time, and our energies serve you in this time and place. Amen.

†A NEW CREED (Spoken): (VU 918)

†CLOSING HYMN: "**Jesus Loves Me**" (VU 365)

†COMMISSIONING:

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

†BENEDICTION:

†CHORAL AMEN: (VU 974)

Assisting with the Service This Morning

<i>Elder-in-Charge:</i>	Linda Kisell
<i>Scripture Reader:</i>	Helen Reid
<i>Minutes for Mission Reader:</i>	Marg McCulley
<i>Greeters:</i>	Stan and Pat Bohnet
<i>Coffee Hosts:</i>	Dale & Lenora Stein, Bev Empey
<i>Sound System Operator:</i>	Hayley McKim/Pat Evans
<i>PowerPoint Operator:</i>	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.

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Announcements

Jan and Chelsea are attending the Conference Meeting next 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.

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. Saves everyone time and calories, and the funds go to assist many worthy causes in the community and elsewhere. Cheques can be made payable to the Westminster United Church Women.

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.

The Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) has been appointed to review the needs of the congregation as a result of the retirement of Rev. Jan Stevenson in September 2018. Rev. Jim

Hillson and Penny Drysdale will represent South Alberta Presbytery on the Committee, and Jody Davison, Pat Evans, Cam Lockerbie and Anne Maier have been appointed to represent the congregation of Westminster United Church.

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!

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 New Approach to Farming

Our gifts for Mission & Service change lives around the world. Our global partner the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) is addressing the problem of severe drought by creating a conservation agriculture program. The conservation agriculture model uses mulching, crop rotation, and minimal tilling, combined with water harvesting and management, to move toward the ultimate goal: local food security.

The NCCCK works with Kenya's National Drought Management Agency and advises the agency of needs in drought-stricken areas. The agency then reports to the national government on areas where help is needed. The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) is doing trials and experiments on technologies in partnership with the NCCCK to determine the varieties of drought-tolerant maize and legumes that are the most suitable for growing in parts of Kenya. The NCCCK/ KALRO partnership started as a result of Mission & Service support of conservation agriculture. Now they share best practices and enjoy a collaborative work relationship.

Farmers appreciate the support this project has received from Mission & Service. In Tharaka Nithi County, a place characterized by perpetual food insecurity, more than 800 households have participated in the conservation agriculture project. These households "will forever be grateful to the partnership between NCCCK and The United Church of Canada," says the NCCCK's General Secretary Peter Karanja.

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.