



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for May 27, 2018

Trinity Sunday

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Jan Stevenson

CALL TO WORSHIP: (*Written by Susan Lukey, Gathering, Pentecost1, page 29*).

One: You are known to us in many ways, O God.

As Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the Trinity:

as Mother and Maker and Creator,
as Christ and Redeemer and Healer,
as Energy and Light and Comforter.

**ALL: We name you in many ways, O God,
knowing that you are Wholly Mystery
as well as Holy Love.**

One: Come to us, in this time of worship, O God,
that we may know you in both familiar and surprising ways. Amen.

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: "***Breathe on Me, Breath of God***" (VU 382, vs 1&3)

OPENING PRAYER:

Glorious God, be with us as we worship you today. Remind us that you are God, and larger than we can dream. You take us by surprise, you confront us, and you love the whole world, so much more than we can imagine. 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: "***Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty***" (VU 315)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of glory, of strength, power, majesty, blessing and peace, we confess that in the noise of our lives, we can fail to notice you. We confess that we don't recognize you when you are not what we expect. We confess that we try to make you small. Forgive us. Help us to see more of who you are. Amen.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION:

The God who is more than we can understand, who creates and fills an expanding universe, loves us more and forgives us more than we would dare to hope. Know that in God you can find strength and peace.

INVITATION TO PRAYER: "***Jesus, We Are Here***" (MV 189)

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 **Redcliff Councillor Chris Czember and the Christian Reformed Church (Pastor George Koopmans)**

Child: South East Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for **Pastoral Care workers in Hospitals and Nursing Homes**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Awful, awesome, awe- inspiring: we gather to hear your Word proclaimed Holy one, Holy Three, in fear and wonder. As we hear and act upon your Word may we be awe-filled to serve in wonder, love and praise. Amen

BIBLICAL NOTES:

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 6: 1-8**

†HYMN: "**She comes Sailing on the Wind**" (VU 380)

SCRIPTURE: **John 3:1-17**

MEDITATION:

†HYMN: "**Jesus Calls Us**" (VU 562)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **A Sweet Program of Empowerment** (*Video*)

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

†DOXOLOGY: "**Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**" (VU 541)

†DEDICATION:

ALL: Accept the gifts we bring, our money, our talents, and ourselves. Use them, send them, so that your love may be shared where it is needed. Amen.

†A NEW CREED (Spoken): (VU 918)

†CLOSING HYMN: "**Lift High the Cross**" (VU 151)

†COMMISSIONING:

One: In Isaiah's vision, God asks, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

ALL: Who, me? You? All of us? Send where and when?

One: How might we respond to that question?

ALL: Do we check our calendars? Look for an excuse?

One: As we go into our homes, our neighbourhoods, into each of the places we go this week, may we be surprised at how and where God's spirit is at work.

†SENDING FORTH HYMN: "**Dance with the Spirit**" (MV 156)

†BENEDICTION:

†CHORAL AMEN: (VU 968)

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:

Maureen Oster

Scripture Reader:

Murray Bell

Greeters:

Barb Grozell, Linda Kisell

Coffee Hosts:

Doug & Velma Pearson, Albina Jackson

Sound System Operator:

Lorenz Fedrau

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

The Joint Needs Assessment Committee is gathering information for its work. Members of the JNAC will be available at coffee time after worship on June 3, 2018 to hear from the congregation about our ministry needs.

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. Please make cheques payable to the Westminster UCW.

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, June 3, 10:25 am. "*Blessings of the Shawls*" will take place during worship service. Many thanks to the Prayer Shawl Ministry Group (Sharon Clay, Irene Fekete, Linda Kisell, Linda Kinvig, Beth Miner, Betty Sidlick, Shirley Sutherland and Brenda Wallsmith) for their work in replenishing our supply of prayer shawls and baby toques.

Sunday, June 10 worship service will include the Sunday School Wind-up, plus the baptism and confirmation of Hayley McKim.

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.

Summer Worship Schedule:

July 1 10:00 am	Fifth Avenue Memorial Church	August 5 10:00 am	Westminster United Church
July 8 10:00 am	Fifth Avenue Memorial Church	August 12 10:00 am	Westminster United Church
July 15 10:00 am	Fifth Avenue Memorial Church	August 19 10:00 am	Fifth Avenue Memorial Church
July 22 10:00 am	Westminster United Church	August 26 10:00 am	Fifth Avenue Memorial Church
July 29 10:00 am	Westminster United Church	September 2 10:25 am	Back to regular services

Ordinary Time (a.k.a. Season of Pentecost)

Dates: Trinity Sunday (May 27) through to Reign of Christ Sunday (November 25)—the longest season of the church year.

Meaning of Name

“Ordinary” comes from the Latin *ordo*, meaning “order.” Ordinary Time is the commonplace, the regular, the everyday time. In between feasts and grand celebrations is the regular time of our lives, the time when faith lives and grows and sustains.

Liturgical Colour: Green

Green is a cool colour, evoking nature, growth, vitality, freshness, harmony, endurance, and fertility. It is associated with healing and rest. It is the depth and stability of blue combined with the warmth and joy of yellow

Feast Days* and Special Days

*Trinity Sunday – the Sunday after Pentecost.

Season of Creation – the Sundays after Labour Day to Thanksgiving.

World Communion Sunday – the first Sunday of October.

*Thanksgiving Sunday – the Sunday before the second Monday of October.

*Reformation Day – October 31: the day in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses.

*All Saints’ Day – November 1: for Protestants, a general commemoration of those who have died. In the Celtic tradition, November 1 is Samhain, marking the end of harvest and beginning of winter.

Remembrance Sunday – Sunday closest to Remembrance Day (November 11), honouring those in the armed forces who fought and died for their countries in times of war.

*Reign of Christ – the last Sunday before Advent.

Today’s Minutes for Mission: *A Sweet Program of Empowerment*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support innovative programs like the cake-decorating program at Tamil United Church, Toronto.

Tamil United shares space at the former Wilmar Heights United Church with the Toronto Southeast Presbytery office. The congregation worships and offers programming for the surrounding community. The program was started by one of the women of the congregation, Ruth, who has her own cake-decorating business and found there was a need among women new to Canada who wanted to start their own businesses.

Vilvan Gunasingham, Chair, Tamil United Church, shared that this program has become an effective social justice outreach to women who are single mothers, unemployed, or underemployed, who now are able to support themselves and their families. Many of the women who took the course now work at major grocery stores decorating cakes in the store bakery. The program also provides a place of welcome to people new to the community.

Your gifts for Mission & Service make possible programs that offer hope to new Canadians.

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.