



# **Westminster United Church**

**Worship Service for June 17, 2018**

Aboriginal Sunday and Outdoor Worship Service at Kin Coulee Park

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Chelsea Masterman

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND:** We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality and culture of the peoples of the Blackfoot Confederacy in whose traditional territory we worship. We honour also the heritage and gifts of Metis and Cree peoples. May we all, as Treaty people, be wise stewards of these lands. Akwe Nia'Tetewa:neren [aw gway—nyah day day waw—nay renh] which means "All my relations."

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** (*James Ravencroft/Alberta Northwest Conference 2015*)

One: We come together in this cathedral of your world, O God.

**All: All around us we see the beauty of your love.**

One: Everything is touched by your presence, a witness to your grace.

**All: Everyone is touched by your Spirit, every heart raised into new life.**

One: Bless us this day with a sense of wonder.

**All: may we open our hearts with gratitude for your love.**

✠ **PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: "Spirit of the Living God"** (VU 376)

- 1 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
- 2 Spirit of the living God, move among us all;  
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:  
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.  
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

**OPENING PRAYER: Centring in Silence** (*James Ravencroft/Alberta Northwest Conference 2015*)

One: We take time to come to stillness. With eyes closed, listen attentively to the sounds of creation. Silently count the sounds until you reach ten (use your fingers so you don't lose track.) When you've heard 10, sit silently with a sense of gratitude. [*silence*]

**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: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"** (VU 291)

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.

- 1 Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colours,  
God made their tiny wings.

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.

2 The purpleheaded mountains,  
the river running by,  
the sunset and the morning  
that brightens up the sky.

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.

3 The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden:  
God made them every one.

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.

4 The rocky mountain splendour,  
the lone wolf's haunting call,  
the great lakes and the prairies,  
the forest in the fall;

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.

5 God gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God our maker,  
who has made all things well.

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(Adapted from Suzanne Edgar, Gathering, Pentecost 1 2018, page 31. Used with permission.)*

One: Loving God who watches over all, hear our prayers.

**All: We pray for the world: that everyone will listen for the voice of God within and around us, and hear that voice as blessing and not curse, as opportunity and not condemnation, as a calling to connect with one another in compassion and respect, not in exclusion or humiliation.**

One: We pray for ourselves that we will be strong in our trust of God's blessing and be willing to leave behind prejudices and judgments that deny the goodness and grace of God found in all.

**All: We pray for the survivors of the residential school system, who are finding their spirits; we give thanks for their courage and their leadership in helping all of us realize the injustice and injury caused.**

One: We pray for continued healing and nurturing of their spirits and a growing understanding of the need for Right Relations in our country.

**All: And for those of us who do not have personal experience of residential schools, we pray that our hearts be made open to the ways we too may need to heal from ways of thinking and ingrained belief systems that do not help us lovingly build Right Relations. Lead us all to healing and to new relationship with ourselves, each other, and above all, with you our Creator.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: God loves us and hears our prayers, holding us in compassion and forgiveness. May we receive this grace, and find ways to offer it to others.

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

Jesus, we are here; (3X)  
we are here for you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Response after each prayer:

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

The Medicine Hat Ministerial Association invites you to pray for **Redcliff Councillor Jim Steinke, and the Dream Centre (Pastors Al Derry and Mike Collinge)**

South Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for **St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon St. Stephen's College, Edmonton & all their students**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU 959)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil  
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(Written by Susan Lukey, Gathering Pentecost 1 2018, page 28. Used with permission.)*

**All: In humility, we earth creatures come, to hear your Word, O Holy God, and to be stirred by the wisdom of your Spirit. Amen.**

BIBLICAL NOTES:

SCRIPTURE: **2 Corinthians 5:6-7, 16-17**

<sup>6</sup> So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight.

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

<sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

**Response to Word:**

One: This is the witness of the Church.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:26-34**

<sup>26</sup> He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,  
<sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.

<sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.

<sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

<sup>30</sup> He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?

<sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;

<sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it;

<sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

**Response to Word:**

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.**

**MEDITATION:**

✠HYMN: **"Deep in Our Hearts"** (MV 154)

- 1 Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.
- 2 Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;  
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;  
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,  
justice and peace in harmony.
- 3 Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;  
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;  
deep in our hearts there is a common current,  
flowing to freedom like a stream.
- 4 Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.

**LIFE AND WORK:**

**OFFERTORY:**

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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

✠DEDICATION: (*Written by Jim McKean, Gathering Pentecost 1 2018, page 45. Used with permission.*)

One: It is in the giving that we find happiness,

**All: especially when our hearts are ever mindful of the work of the church.**

**Ground of Being, use these gifts for the betterment of your creation.**

**We pray this in the name of the one who brought the Good News to earth.**

**Amen.**

THE NEW CREED: (Spoken)

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

✠CLOSING HYMN: "**Hey Ney Yana**" (MV 217)

Hey ney yana, hey ney yana,  
Hey ney yana, hey ya hey yo, hey ha hey yo.

1. I walk in beauty, yes, I do, yes I do,  
I talk in beauty, yes I do, yes I do,  
I sing of beauty, hey ha hey yo, hey ha hey yo.

Hey ney yana, hey ney yana,  
Hey ney yana, hey ya hey yo, hey ha hey yo.

2 I leave in beauty, yes I do, yes I do.  
I sleep in beauty, yes I do, yes I do,  
I dream of beauty, hey ya hey yo, hey ya hey yo.

Hey ney yana, hey ney yana,  
Hey ney yana, hey ya hey yo, hey ha hey yo.

✠COMMISSIONING: (*James Ravencroft/Alberta Northwest Conference 2015*)

**All: May the God who dances in creation,  
who embraces us with human love,  
who shakes our lives like thunder,  
bless us and drive us out with power,  
to fill the world with her love.**

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

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
Sing with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

✠BENEDICTION:

One: And as we go, may the grace of Christ attend you,  
the love of God surround you,  
the Holy Spirit keep you, now and forever. Amen.

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 968)

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

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<b><i>Elder-in-Charge:</i></b>	Linda Kisell
<b><i>Scripture Reader:</i></b>	Sharon Clay
<b><i>Greeters:</i></b>	Jean Riggins
<b><i>Coffee Hosts:</i></b>	Christian Development

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 June are allocated to Westminster UCW.

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

## ***Announcements***

**WE NEED YOUR HELP** - Westminster United Church doesn't get a holiday in the summer months. The payroll expenses alone are \$18,600 per month. Income that we know for sure is PAR \$6,600 and \$5,000 of our savings. Just do the math and then arrange for your donations all year long. Thank you in anticipation and for the love of your church.

Ways to do this - Sign on to Pre Authorized Remittance, leave the church dated monthly cheques, just keep using your envelopes at other church services and they get back to our church.  
..... Finance and Stewardship Committee.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the UCW "Bakeless Bake Sale". To date, we have received \$610.00, which is at least \$100 less than the Bake Table at the last Spring Tea. So we are

extending the sale through June as well, hoping to meet or exceed the Spring Tea amount. Please make cheques payable to Westminster UCW, or for cash donations, use the envelopes in your pew and mark as "UCW Bakeless Bake Sale". The funds from the sale are used to support many local, national and international projects.

The Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) have developed a short survey that they encourage all members and adherents to complete and return by June 24. This will help the Committee determine the priorities of the congregation, which will assist them in making appropriate recommendations. The survey is also available on our website if you wish to fill it in there. You can complete the document online, then save it and send back to the office ([reception@westminsteruc.com](mailto:reception@westminsteruc.com)).

Our freezer is pretty bare at the moment, and we would appreciate any baking (home made or store bought) so that we have goodies for ourselves and friends from Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church for July 22. If you could bring them in before June 27, we'll store them in the freezer, or bring them with you when you come to worship on Sunday, July 22.

**Sunday, June 17th., 7:00p.m** The TarTones Men's Chorus – "Spring Concert 2018",. at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 504-2nd. St. SE. 15 men, 4-part singing –....a little Western...a little Folk...a little Broadway...a little Spiritual. Director: Judith Dickie. Accompanist: Allison Kapcala. Admission by donation.

**Tuesday June 19, 7pm** The Sine Nomine Ensemble presents Earth and Stars at Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church. This is the second year Sine Nomine, a few of Medicine Hat's own talented musicians, has gotten together to share their passion of music. This small ensemble choir has prepared a variety of challenging repertoire based upon the earth and Stars. The selections being performed are quite eclectic, from classical pieces to movie themes. There is a little something for everyone. This is not a concert to be missed! Good will offering.

**Sunday, June 24, 11:30 am (after worship)** Westminster UC Board of Elders is calling a congregational meeting for approval to ask South Alberta Presbytery to appoint a full time equivalent supply minister(s) effective October 1, 2018.

### Summer Worship Schedule:

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

### Today's Minute for Mission: **Reconciliation**

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the work of reconciliation with Indigenous brothers and sisters.

The Mohawk words "Akwe Nia Tetewá:neren" (in English, "All My Relations") were added to The United Church of Canada's crest in 2012, recognizing that we are all connected to each other and all of creation.

A recent visit from the Uniting Church in Australia's Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress demonstrated the truth of this phrase. The visit was part of a dialogue on reconciliation between our two countries and churches. A return visit from Canada took place in March 2018.

The Australians arrived in Vancouver, British Columbia, and after exploring its urban Indigenous context, were scheduled to fly up the coast to the Indigenous community of Bella Coola. The United Churches there had worked to ensure a meaningful visit, but wildfires intervened. Concerned that the community might need to provide refuge for those displaced by fire, everyone reluctantly decided to cancel the visit.

Several phone calls later, friends in Peepeekisis and Carry the Kettle First Nations in Saskatchewan helped out with "Plan B." The warmth with which the visitors were received was overwhelming. In Peepeekisis, after a brief service in the beloved old church, everyone was invited to a community feast, where the Australian guests participated in sacred ceremony. At Carry the Kettle, a visit to the annual powwow turned into the Australians being part of the Grand Entry—an incredible honour, and an experience that most will likely never have again.

This happened because of a simple recognition, that no matter how far apart we are, we are all connected; we are all relatives.

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.

