



# **Westminster United Church**

**Worship Service for June 24 2018**

Pentecost 5

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Chelsea Masterman

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Written by Richard Bott, Gathering Pentecost 1 2018. Used with permission.)*

One: When we come to this place, what are we looking for?

When we gather together, what do we hope to find?

**ALL: Community? Caring? Christ?**

One: When we come to this place, what are we bringing?

When we gather together, what do we hope to offer?

**ALL: Our loves? Our lives? Ourselves?**

One: Whatever you're looking for, whatever you bring, know this:

this is God's home, you are God's beloved, and you are welcome here.

**ALL: Let us worship God!**

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: **"Breath on Me, Breath of God"** (VU 382vs 1&5)

OPENING PRAYER *(Written by John Moses, Gathering Pentecost 1 2018. Used with permission.)*

**ALL: God, raise our expectations  
as we worship today.**

**Do not leave us content to settle**

**for a feel-good moment,**

**for a tidbit of usable wisdom,**

**for a momentary easing of stress.**

**Let us come seeking**

**an encounter with the risen Christ**

**so that we may be transformed**

**to become his living body for the world.**

**In that holy name, 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: **"Will you Come and Follow Me"** (VU 567)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(Written by John Moses, Gathering Pentecost 1 2018. Used with permission.)*

**ALL: God, we confess that we really do not know  
how to confess our sins.**

**Sometimes we are so convinced**

**of the rightness of our words and actions**

**that we do not recognize**

**their hurtful consequences.**

**Sometimes we are not sorry**

**for the wrong we have done**

**unless we get caught.**

**Sometimes the lines**

**between good and evil are so blurred**

**that we are not sure where we are.  
God, give us the grace of true repentance;  
open our hearts and our understanding,  
so that we may truly seek your forgiveness.  
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: *(Written by John Moses, Gathering Pentecost 1 2018. Used with permission.)*

One: God invites us to let go,  
to release our fears and our failures,  
our deepest loves and our greatest joys,  
into the infinite ocean of God's mercy.

**ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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**

The Medicine Hat Ministerial Association invites you to pray for **Mayor Ted Clugston and Evangelical Free Church (Pastor Matt Round)**

South Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for **Canyon Church Camp Board & staff**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(Adapted from David Sparks, Gathering Pentecost 1 2018. Used with permission.)*

One: Gracious God, take the words of scripture and bless them to our hearing.

**ALL: Take the listening we will bring to the Word and empower our reflection with action. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 133** (VU p. 856)

ANTHEM: **"Just a Little Talk with Jesus"**

SCRIPTURE: **Mark 4:35-41**

MEDITATION:

✠HYMN: **"Bless now, O God, the Journey"** (VU 633)

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

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

✠DEDICATION: *(Written by Wanda Winfield, Gathering Pentecost 1 2018. Used with permission.)*

**ALL: O God, you do not ask for more than we can give.  
Bless these gifts, we pray, that they might be building blocks for the kin-dom of heaven.  
Amen.**

THE NEW CREED: (Spoken)

✠CLOSING HYMN: **"It's a Song of Praise to the Maker"** (MV 30)

✠COMMISSIONING: *(Adapted from George Allan, Gathering Pentecost 1 2018. Used with permission.)*

**ALL: God in Jesus the Christ calls us  
even above the roar of the storm,  
"Reach out to your neighbour,  
do justice, love kindness,  
and together, walk humbly with your God."**

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

✠BENEDICTION: *(Excerpted from Bob Root, Gathering Pentecost 1 2018. Used with permission.)*

One: And now into the care of our everlasting God, we are placed:  
thankful for a love that knows neither beginning nor ending;  
grateful for a hope that gives us courage to live day by day;  
protected and lovingly held in the arms of the Creator of the universe.  
Amen.

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 968)

***Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship following the Special  
Congregational Meeting!***

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

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<b><i>Elder-in-Charge:</i></b>	Bob McCaig
<b><i>Scripture Reader:</i></b>	Sandra McDonald
<b><i>Greeters:</i></b>	Grace Lemon, Rose Connor
<b><i>Coffee Hosts:</i></b>	Vicki McCaig, Doug & Velma Pearson
<b><i>Sound</i></b>	Hayley McKim

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 the Haitian Coffee Fund.

### **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

**Special Congregational Meeting of Westminster United Church  
June 24, 2018**

**Congregational Chair: Marg Taylor**  
**Congregational Secretary: Jeannette Zollner**

**1. Constitution of meeting in the name of Jesus Christ: (Marg Taylor)**

I constitute this meeting of the congregation of Westminster United Church in the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, for all business that is appropriate to bring before it.

Let us pray:

**ALL: God of all creation, please guide our conversation and decisions today that they may bear fruit for your kingdom and bring honour and glory to you. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.**

This meeting has been called to deal with a recommendation from the Joint Needs Assessment Committee and a decision of the Board of Elders on that recommendation. Only full members of the pastoral charge can vote on pastoral relations matters.

**2. Motion #1:** "That the Agenda for the Special Congregation Meeting be accepted as outlined above."

- a. Moved by:
- b. Seconded by:
- c. Discussion:

d. Vote:

**3. Presentation by Pat Evans, Joint Needs Assessment Committee representative**

**4. Motion #2:** "That Westminster United Church request South Alberta Presbytery appoint a full-time equivalent supply minister(s) effective October 1, 2018.

- a. Moved by:
- b. Seconded by:
- c. Discussion:

d. Vote:

**5. Motion #3:** "That the meeting be adjourned."

## **Summary of Initial Joint Needs Assessment Report (JNAC), June 24, 2018**

The initial JNAC report was presented to the Board of Elders at a meeting on May 28, 2018 and discussed at a board meeting on June 4, 2018.

The recommendations of the JNAC are that:

- Westminster United Church request South Alberta Presbytery appoint an Interim Minister or a Supply Minister with transitional ministry skills and experience.
- Westminster United Church engage a professional consultant to prepare a regional church plan.
- That the ministry of the pastoral charge be the work of the Interim Minister and that the support and expertise for the planning work come from the professional consultant.
- That the serious financial status of Westminster United Church be better communicated to the congregation.

The reasons for these recommendations include:

- An aging congregation
- Few young families
- Declining membership and attendance
- Diminishing finances and use of our savings
- Fewer volunteers to carry out church tasks
- Strategic planning for the future is essential

The JNAC has distributed a survey asking the congregation for their opinions on congregational priorities and ministry needs. The JNAC will continue its work to prepare a comprehensive report to be ready by the end of July, 2018.

Submitted by Pat Evans, member of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee

## **Summary of Board of Elders Meeting June 4, 2018**

Discussion of Recommendations of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee Initial Report

The Board of Elders met on June 4, 2018 to discuss the recommendations made by the JNAC. After much discussion, the board approved the following motion which will be presented to the congregation for approval at a congregational meeting on June 24, 2018:

“That Westminster United Church request South Alberta Presbytery appoint a full-time equivalent supply minister(s) effective October 1, 2018.

# *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.

The UCW would like to thank everyone for the donations to the Bakeless bake sale. The amount received was \$810. With that amount and the \$788.65 from soup, bunwiches, and chili we have reached the profit from a regular tea. Any ideas for the fall?

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.

Fifth Avenue United will be hosting VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL this summer from Tuesday August 7 to Friday August 10, a full-day program (with lunch and snacks) from 9am to 4pm. The awesome team from Camp Caravan (St. Andrew's United in Calgary) will once again be leading, with assistance from the area's 4 UCC churches. All children from Kindergarten to Grade 6 are welcome! Registration forms can be completed at Westminster or at FAM; the cost is \$70/child. Subsidies are available. Some kitchen helpers will be needed this week - please let the church offices know if you can be available for a few hours!

LOVE WEEK - Members of our 4 area United Churches are invited to volunteer an hour of their time Aug 12 - 19 to help and serve others in the Medicine Hat area.

Love Week started with Elevation Church in North Carolina back in 2010, with simple gestures showing communities what the good news of God's love can look like! What can we do here that fills a need? It could be assisting a neighbour, having a refreshment stand outside your church, helping at one of the local organizations we will line up - the possibilities are endless! The kick-off will be at Westminster United on August 12, with a simple celebration and update the following Sunday at FAM. Stay tuned for more details!

The UCW at Westminster are initiating a plan for a pot luck at Westminster for Chelsea on July 29th and for Jan on September 23rd. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome. I invite those who would like to participate in planning a program for these events to contact Arlea Harper at 403-504-0609.

**UPDATE ON 4 BOARD MEETINGS:** On May 30, the boards of WUC, FAM, GMUC and Peace met to discuss the future of the United Church in the area. Out of that conversation came a number of "Regional Ministry Projects" that we can work on together. Some of these have already been happening and needed a committee to work on them this year, and some are new. The projects are:

1. Regional Planning/Planner - to discuss and take action on developing some sort of regional plan for the United Church in our communities.
2. Vacation Bible School - a committee to help coordinate this year's VBS.
3. Bike Scavenger Hunt - a fun outreach project with potential for fundraising.
4. Next 4 Board Retreat - Previously the primary planning team for our 4-board retreats/meetings had been Revs. Dave, Jan and Chelsea; with Chelsea moving and Jan retiring we are happy that some people stepped up to help Dave plan the next one!
5. Becoming Affirming - the Affirming process is a process congregations can enter into to explore what it means to be truly affirming of people of different sexual orientation, gender, race, income level, age, ability and more. It is a process that can help us grow as people of faith and in our own self-awareness of our ingrained biases, and open our hearts to new knowledge and understanding. For more information on becoming an Affirming congregation, please visit: <http://affirmunited.ause.ca/>
6. Love Week: an exciting project coming up in August in which we will be invited to show God's love to our communities by volunteering an hour or two of our time in whatever way we feel called!
7. The United Church of Canada Alberta Land Trust: The Trust is described as "a new way for United Church congregations across Alberta. Our aim is to help local congregations identify the best ways to manage land and facilities, to continue in mission right where we live." A group of us are learning more about the Trust and how it may benefit the UCC where we live and worship.

While we are living in challenging times, we are also engaged in exciting work. May God bless our discerning, planning and dreaming, that we may be a blessing to each other and the communities we live in. Amen!

Submitted by Rev. Chelsea Masterman

## Today's Minute for Mission: **An Investment in the Future**

Our gifts for Mission & Service, together with emergency funds and Gifts with Vision, enabled us to build a church-run high school in Haiti.

The opening of a new secondary school in Duplan, in the hills above Port-au-Prince, was the high point of celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of the Église Méthodiste en Haïti (Methodist Church in Haiti) in February 2017. The United Church of Canada financed 80 percent of the cost of building the seven-room structure following the massive earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010, destroying or damaging many schools and churches and killing between 225,000 and 300,000 people.



The shiny yellow building housing the new secondary school is bursting with 215 students and 19 staff. Already, Edzaire Paul, who heads up the Methodist school system, is dreaming of adding computer and science labs, as well as a playing field so students don't have to compete with motorbikes as they play soccer on the dusty road near the school.

Education was the church's calling card to Haiti. In 1817, the first president of the Republic of Haiti authorized the first Protestant missionaries to come to the island nation on the understanding that their work would include providing schooling in the newly formed country. Today, the Methodist Church runs a system of 105 primary schools, 15 high schools, and a teachers' college, as well as three vocational schools. With children in some areas travelling two hours by foot over rocks and boulders to get to school—sometimes without having had breakfast—the need for a major investment in education is clear. Mission & Service makes these schools accessible to families with limited incomes, an important investment in the future of Haiti.

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.