



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for August 5, 2018

Pentecost 11

Today's Worship Leader is Marg McCulley

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Lead us to you today, O God.

ALL: Guide us with your light.

One: Speak to us today, O God.

ALL: Speak to us with truth.

One: Dwell with us today, O God.

ALL: Dwell with us in love.

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

OPENING PRAYER

One God, loving parent of all, who is above all and through all and in all:
You are the bread of life, you are the light of the minds that know you,
you are the strength of those who serve you, you are rest to those who seek you. We come to you
in praise and adoration. We come to you to worship and to rest from our work and responsibilities,
from our play and from our day dreams, from our concerns and from our anxieties and we come to
enjoy you to enjoy your beauty and your world and our life in you. Amen

CELEBRATIONS: (*Birthdays, anniversaries, special occasions*)

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: "***We are One***" (VU 402)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

ALL: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in what we have done and in what we have left undone. We have not trusted in your goodness and have allowed fear to rule us. We have held back from giving so that we might protect ourselves. We have not lived with the same grace that you have shown us. Forgive us and help us to serve you by serving your world with generous spirits. These things we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

One: We are forgiven through the grace and mercy and kindness of God who restores us to joy.

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 **Councillor Phil Turnbull, and the Seventh Day Adventist Church (Pastor Tyler Rosengren)**

South Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for **Roman Catholic Churches**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

One: Your thoughts are not our thoughts, your ways are not our ways; guide us by your word so that in the hearing of the scriptures our hearts and thoughts may be converted. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: **2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:13a**

CHORAL SCRIPTURE: PSALM 51 "**Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour**"(VU 665)

SCRIPTURE READING: **Ephesians 4: 1 - 16**

MEDITATION: **Paying it Forward**

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

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **The Struggle to Ban the Bomb**

LIFE AND WORK:

INVITATION TO OFFERING: *(Written by Sandy Ferguson, Gathering Pentecost 1, 2018, used with permission)*

One: At this time, let us share with God our gifts of time talent and treasure, giving thanks for the many ways in which we have been blessed.

OFFERTORY:

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

✠DEDICATION:

One: Let these gifts, O God, spread your wisdom through the teachings of Jesus and your love through the help we give to each other, our community, and the wider world. Amen

THE NEW CREED: (Spoken)

✠CLOSING HYMN: "**Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**" (VU 651)

✠COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION: *(Written by Wanda Winfield, Gathering Pentecost 1, 2018, used with permission)*

One: May God of the unexpected surprise us this week, with blessings where we thought there were only burdens, life where we saw only death. Then may we be the ones who offer life, surprising others with our generosity. Amen

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 968)

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

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Announcements

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are placed for Violet Lee by her family in memoriam. We said goodbye July 30, 2013.

The office will be closed Tuesday, August 6, for the Civic Holiday. If you require urgent pastoral care, please contact Rev. Jan Stevenson at 403-952-6671.

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!

FAITH STUDY: Starting this fall, Fifth Avenue Memorial United is pleased to offer the DVD/discussion series "Living The Questions 2.0" on Wednesday evenings Sept 26 - Nov 14. LTQ2 is a popular video & internet-based small group exploration of progressive Christianity featuring thirty premier religion voices of our day. It's open to everyone from FAM, Westminster, GMUC and Peace United, and will take place in the FAM lounge and possibly other locations. After this "Invitation to Journey", there will be two more 7-session studies from LTQ2 in the winter and spring: "Honoring Creation" and "Call to Covenant" are their themes. Stay tuned for more information!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

<i>Elder-in-Charge:</i>	Maureen Oster
<i>Scripture Reader:</i>	Jen Zollner
<i>Greeters:</i>	Donna Scharf
<i>Coffee Hosts:</i>	Linda Kisell, Al Piotrowski, Lynne Graff
<i>Sound</i>	Hailey 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 July/August are allocated to the Champion Centre.

Today's Minute for Mission: **The Struggle to Ban the Bomb**

Our gifts for Mission & Service support work with advocacy organizations like Project Ploughshares in its efforts to abolish the use of nuclear weapons.

Hiroshima could happen again. The doctrines, actions, and postures by those who embrace the purported benefits of nuclear weapons perpetuate, rather than renounce, nuclear weapons retention. Today, more than 15,000 nuclear warheads continue to threaten civilization. Even a limited nuclear exchange would bring about devastating humanitarian consequences.

The primary rationale for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons rests in the possibility that a catastrophe could occur, by accident or design, and would likely involve greater numbers of vastly more powerful bombs than those dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Until all nuclear weapons are eliminated, an entirely preventable risk lingers.

Canada boycotted the most recent effort to advance nuclear disarmament—a legal prohibition of nuclear weapons—just as the U.S. had asked. Yet apprehension about Canada's stand is shared by Canadian civil society experts, academics, former diplomats, and a host of prominent citizens.

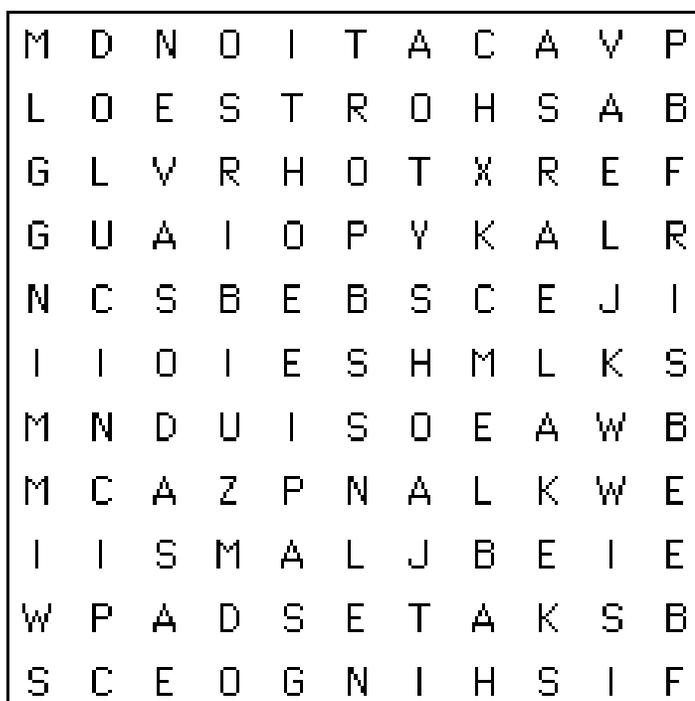
The use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable, and the goal of their complete elimination is not negotiable. This is why Project Ploughshares has engaged civil society partners and government officials in Canada and beyond to emphasize the urgent need for nuclear abolition and the gravity of the nuclear weapons threat.

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.



Project Ploughshares is an operating division of The Canadian Council of Churches that works with churches, governments and civil society to advance policies and actions to prevent war and armed violence. To find out more about Project

Ploughshares, please visit their website at <http://ploughshares.ca/>



Summer Word Search

BASEBALL	FRISBEE	PICNIC
BEACH	HOT	SHORTS
BIKE	LAKE	SKATES
BORED	LEMONADE	SODAS
CAMP	MOVIES	SWIMMING
FISHING	PARKS	VACATION