



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for August 12, 2018

Pentecost 12

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Jan Stevenson

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Written by Laura Turnbull, Gathering Pent 1 2018, page 35 Used with permission)*

One: People of God, do you seek new life?

ALL: We come desiring the bread that feeds eternally

One: Are you hungering for the Source who lives forever among the faithful?

ALL: Our needs are satisfied and our greatest hungers are met.

Jesus, the Bread of Life, is among us. Praise be!

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

OPENING PRAYER

ALL: Jesus, bread of life, fill us again as we sing and pray, speak and listen, members of one another, beloved children of God. We pause in silence, to see you, hear you, touch you, taste you, breathe in the fragrance of your profound life-renewing love.... 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: **"Let Us Build a House"** (MV 1)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Body Prayer):

ALL: We put away falsehood, lies, deceitful words and actions.

We take up truth, honesty, openness in our words and actions.

We put away anger that leads us to cause harm with our words and actions.

We take up words and actions that help create peace.

We put away stealing, greed, grasping for all we can get for ourselves.

We take up honest work with our hands, to have something to share with those in need.

We put away evil talk, mean words, insults, slander, and judgment of others.

We take up speech that builds others up, encourages, comforts, and offers others hope.

We put away bitterness, revenge, the desire to cause others harm.

We take up kindness, tender-hearted attitudes, forgiving one another.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION:

One: For God has forgiven us, made us members of one another.

ALL: We remember again that we live in love, living in Christ, beloved children of 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 Councillor Jim Turner and First Assembly of God (Pastor Lyle Berg).**

South Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for **all persons serving in leadership roles in the local congregations.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

One: Holy One, Source of all Creation, we open our ears to receive your Word, but you know our inner hearts, the distractions, turmoil, fears and angers that ferment there.

ALL: Holy One, Source of Reconciliation, may your Word silence us to hear and be transformed. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: **2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33, Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

CHORAL SCRIPTURE: Psalm 130 (VU 852, tune of VU 625)

SCRIPTURE READING: **John 6:35, 41-51**

MEDITATION: ***Righteous Rage***

✠HYMN: ***"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"*** (VU 684)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **We Found Our Home**

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

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

✠DEDICATION:

ALL: We offer who we are and what we have before you, Holy God. May we and what we bring become the bread of life for all.

THE NEW CREED: (Spoken)

✠CLOSING HYMN: ***"Put Peace into Each Other's Hands"*** (MV 173)

✠COMMISSIONING:

Go now, and be imitators of God, confident of Christ's love for you, beloved children of God. **And may we always turn towards the way of love set out before us, empowered by the presence of God, Creator, Redeemer, Breath of Life**

✠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

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. We encourage you to take photos of your Love Week activities, and send a digital copy to Reverend Dave Pollard (minister@famunitedchurch.ca) to include in the service on August 19.

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>	Murray Bell
<i>Scripture Reader:</i>	
<i>Minutes for Mission Reader:</i>	
<i>Greeters:</i>	Doug & Velma Pearson
<i>Coffee Hosts:</i>	Marg McCulley
<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: *We Found Our Home*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries across the country, including this one in North Bay, Ontario. The Community Homeownership Action Group Project, also known as HOAP, extends its heartfelt gratitude to the people of the United Church for continued support through a Mission & Service-funded mission support grant.

We are currently working with our 13th family to become stable homeowners. One family member shared with us this story: "When I was a child we moved constantly, never in one house for more than two years. Our son will have a solid home. His room will be his room. He will have roots that I never did. For me, having rented all my life, I have never felt at home in a place. Now I do."

Another family shared their story: "When we found our home, we put in lots of hard work for renovations. With the help of Project HOAP and some great volunteers, we completed the renovations and were able to move in by early spring. We were worried about the house not being safe, but HOAP had lots of knowledge about what would be needed and took the time to explain everything to us. The program helped us to

purchase what we needed to complete the renovations.... It was fantastic to see the outcome."

Alisha Matheny, coordinator of Project HOAP, says, "Families in our program are hard-working and motivated to accomplish the goal of homeownership; however, without our organization and the support we receive together from the United Church, the obstacles would be too great to overcome. It is a privilege to participate in a program that works alongside its participants to create meaningful change in their lives and our community." Mission & Service makes this possible.

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.