



Westminster United Church
Worship Service for September 16, 2018
Pentecost 16/Creation Time 2
Today's Worship Leader is Dr. Bob Cruickshank

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

One: The rush of the world is with us.

All: Time crowds us in every minute.

One: Anxiety creeps into our best hours.

All: Soon we are overcome with care.

One: How then shall we approach our worship today?

All: We will begin quietly, pray silently and receive openly.

One: Such stillness is near to the heart of God; such discipline receives the Spirit.

Come each of you and open yourselves to the majesty of God.

All: We open ourselves. Come, Holy Spirit.

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: "**Bring Many Names**" (VU 268vs 1& 6)

OPENING PRAYER

One: Gracious God, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness, you have brought us out of the heart of your being, and breathed into us the breath of life.

We know that we do not live by bread alone but by every word and act that comes from you. Feed our deep hunger with the living bread that you give us in Jesus Christ.

Make us a joyful company of your people, so that with the faithful in every time and place, we may praise and honour you, God most holy.

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**" (VU 315)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

ALL: Merciful God: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, change what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your way, To the glory of your holy name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: God's gift of grace comes to us in these words of life:

Rejoice! You are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

INVITATION TO PRAYER: "**Kyrie Eleison**"

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 **Drew Barnes, MLA and Heights Baptist Church (Pastor Patrick Schoenberger)**

South Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for **the youth of the church**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Prepare our hearts and minds, O God, to receive your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may obey your will through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: **James 3: 1-12**

ANTHEM: ***Earth with her Ten Thousand Flowers***

SCRIPTURE READING: **Mark 8: 27-38**

MEDITATION: ***"The Journey is the Reward"***

✠HYMN: ***"For the Music of Creation"*** (VU 535)

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

✠DOXOLOGY: ***"For the Gift of Creation"*** (VU 538)

✠DEDICATION:

Gracious God, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness, you have brought us out of the heart of your being, and breathed into us the breath of life.

We know that we do not live by bread alone but by every word and act that comes from you. Feed our deep hunger with the living bread that you give us in Jesus Christ.

Make us a joyful company of your people, so that with the faithful in every time and place, we may praise and honour you, God most holy.

THE NEW CREED: (Sung)

✠CLOSING HYMN: ***"There's a Spirit in the Air"*** (VU 582)

✠COMMISSIONING:

One: God has prepared for us things beyond our imagining.

All: Our hope is for a renewed world, and for fullness of life in the age to come.

One: As Jesus taught us, we pray...

All: Thy kingdom come...

One: Go out into the world in peace. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 974)

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: ***"I See a New Heaven"*** (VU 713, vs 1)

Announcements

The United Church of Canada has a new moderator!! This past July, the General Council elected Richard Bott as the 43rd Moderator of The United Church of Canada. His welcome message is included on the back page of this bulletin. You can also view it online at www.united-church.ca.

THE UCW will be meeting **Wednesday, September 19, 2018** at 1:30 pm in the Lounge.

A special congregational meeting will be held **Sunday, September 23, 2018**, to receive the Joint Needs Assessment Committee Report and vote on the recommendations from the report.

FAITH STUDY: LIVING THE QUESTIONS 2.0 Evening Discussion Group starts soon! Come to Fifth Avenue Memorial United on Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm starting Sept 26 to explore an open, inclusive, broad-minded Christianity and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world. LTQ2 is a popular DVD/discussion series exploring progressive Christianity and features 30 premier religion voices of our day, such as Marcus Borg, John Spong, Diana Butler Bass and many more. It's open to all, includes refreshments, and will be held in the Memorial-Salem room (library/lounge) weekly until Nov 14. 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. We hope to see you on Wed the 26th!

Anna Marie Hancock is looking for submissions for the fall newsletter. She will accept submissions until Monday, September 24th, and they can be emailed to her at annah@telusplanet.net or left in her mail slot on the ramp.

A Farewell pot luck lunch and program for the Reverend Jan Stevenson will be held after the worship service on September 30. If you have pictures, stories you would like to share, or would like to help in organizing this event, please contact Arlea Harper (myarlea@telus.net or by phone 403-504-0609).

TURKEY SUPPER - Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church downtown on the corner of 5th Avenue and 4th Street S.E. will hold their annual turkey supper on Sunday, September 30. Sittings at 4:30pm and 6pm. Tickets: Adults - \$20.00, Children (12 & under) - \$10.00. Tickets limited and in advance only. For tickets or more information call 403-526-2237.

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

<i>Elder-in-Charge:</i>	Murray Bell
<i>Scripture Reader:</i>	Al Olson
<i>Greeters:</i>	Grace Lemon, Albina Jackson
<i>Coffee Hosts:</i>	Marg McCulley
<i>Sound</i>	Hayley McKim
<i>PowerPoint Operator</i>	Kathy Nielsen

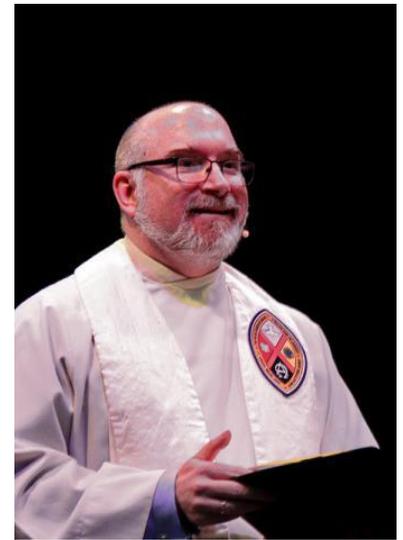
Help us keep the air we share healthy and fragrance-free. The chemicals used in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with asthma, allergies and other medical conditions. Please do not wear perfume, cologne, aftershave and other fragrances.

The Peace Candle is lit as a reminder to Christians to pray for and work for world peace.

Donations at Coffee Time for September are allocated to the Westminster UCW.

Welcome Message from Moderator Richard Bott:

I've been asked what it is that I'm hoping to focus on over the next three years. I'd really like to see us—as individuals, as communities of faith, and as a denomination—to explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in The United Church of Canada in the 21st century. Who is Jesus—for me, for you, and for us—and what does that mean for how we live and work and celebrate the presence of the divine together? Part of the joy of The United Church of Canada is that we have so many different answers to these questions—and, when we get down into the vulnerable depths of discussion, we have the ability to experience God's presence in powerful ways, learning from one another.



I believe that the Holy Spirit was moving at the 43rd General Council—in gusts that carried us further along paths that we've been discerning for a time—as we listened to, and accepted, the calls to action of the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle. We have a long way to go to truly become people walking together in right relationship with each other and with the Creator, but I am so thankful for the teachings and the challenge that our Indigenous siblings have been willing to offer, and that those of us in Christ's church who are settlers and descendants of settlers are listening, learning, and acting.

I believe that the Holy Spirit was moving at the 43rd General Council—in a gale-force whirlwind, when racialized commissioners and commissioners who are differently abled spoke of the experiences in their lives of racism and ableism—not just in the world but in The United Church of Canada. In those few hours, God challenged those of us who are part of the dominant church to realize that every single person is a beloved child of God and to do the deep, hard work of rooting out and changing our internalized and overt racism and ableism.

In all of this, there is listening that needs to happen, and conversations that need to happen, and there's action that needs to happen. There are moments that each of us will feel overwhelmed. If we take a look at the biblical stories, there are times that many of the disciples who walked right beside Jesus were overwhelmed—even ran away. But they came back, and they lived Jesus' Way to the best of their ability.

There are so many things happening in the life of our church and in the world around us right now. Political changes, social changes, structural changes, and all of these changes, whether we think they're good or not, add to our stress. There's a phrase that I once heard used by a Buddhist teacher, a play on words that both makes me smile and gives me pause, "Don't just do something. Sit there!" It was their way of challenging the listener to stop and simply be until the moment was right to act.

For me, as a disciple of Jesus, those moments of quieting myself are a lead-in to the conversation with God that we often call prayer. So I'd invite you, in those moments when all of the change, all of the transition threatens to be overwhelming, "Don't just do something. Sit there!" Listen carefully—to yourself, to your neighbour, and to God. Then act, and let your action be as full of your love and God's love as you are able to make it!

Let's see where Jesus' Way is leading us today.