



**Westminster United Church**  
**Worship Service for September 9, 2018**  
Pentecost 16/Creation Time 1  
Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Jan Stevenson

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Holy One, you call us to be your people  
**ALL: To honour Creation as wise stewards**  
**To gather in praise and prayer**  
**To hear your Word proclaimed**  
**To discern your wisdom for each of us**  
One: So come, let us worship God

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

OPENING PRAYER

One: Today we celebrate our growing awareness of our humanity.  
**ALL: We bring our empty hands and ask you to fill them.**  
One: We bring our curiosity and questions in search of understanding.  
**ALL: We bring our heavy hearts and ask you to share our load.**  
One: We bring skin of many shades and sensitivities, eyes that yearn to see and ears that wait in silence and noise for the sound of your presence. 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: "**Born in Song**" (VU 536, vs 1 - 4)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND AFFIRMATION:

One: We are joined to every grain of sand:  
**ALL: Earth does not belong to us – we belong to the earth.**  
One: We are joined to every shining leaf:  
**ALL: Earth does not belong to us – we belong to the earth.**  
One: We are joined to every drop of rain:  
**ALL Earth does not belong to us – we belong to the earth.**  
One: We are joined to every creature's breath  
**ALL: Earth does not belong to us – we belong to the earth.**  
One: We are joined to every beam of light:  
**ALL: Earth does not belong to us – we belong to the earth.**  
One: We are joined to every particle of creation.  
**ALL: Earth does not belong to us – we belong to the earth.**  
One: We may know this, and yet –  
**ALL: We confess our arrogance, ignorance, and greed in how we treat creation.**  
One: We hear your word proclaimed, and yet—  
**ALL: We confess how easily we slip into our desires instead of respecting your will.**  
One: We are joined forever to God's remarkable love which brings us to a place of healing and action. Through this love, we can live out these words  
**ALL: Earth does not belong to us – we belong to the earth.**

**The Word does not belong to us—we belong to the word. Amen**

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 **Kevin Fuhrmann, Director, Medicine Hat Remand Centre and Gordon Memorial United Church, Redcliff**

South Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for **South Alberta Presbytery & its Executive Committee members**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(Written by Beth W Johnston, Gathering, Pent 2, 2018, p.39. Used with permission)*

One: Holy One, open us to your ways.  
Open us to the message of the ages.  
Call us though this age-old text,  
That we may respond in our day to this ancient call. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: **Genesis 1:26–28, Psalm 8**

ANTHEM: ***How Great Thou Art***

SCRIPTURE READING: **Philippians 2:1–8, Mark 10:41–45**

MEDITATION: ***It Starts with a Story***

✠HYMN: ***"All Beautiful the March of Days"*** (VU 530)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **Advocacy in Action**

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

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

✠DEDICATION:

Men: **We pledge, O God, to discover how much is enough for us to be truly fulfilled, neither rich nor poor, and to consume only that.**

Women: **We pledge, O God, to be part of the discovery of how much is enough for everyone; not only to survive but to thrive, and find ways for all to have access to that.**

One: May this offering of restraint and justice teach us to live like Jesus – healing our lives and the life of the world.

**ALL: Amen.**

THE NEW CREED: (Sung)

✠CLOSING HYMN: ***"It's a Song of Praise to the Maker"*** (MV30)

✠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 974)

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

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

## ***Announcements***

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.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped out with VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL this summer! We really appreciate all that was done, whether you helped in the kitchen, donated delicious snacks, bought Vesey's bulbs, did extra cleaning, orientated the Camp Caravan team to your building, or offered other support. We had 15 enthusiastic kids and 5 leaders this summer. Thanks again!

### ***Looking for ways to enhance your faith experience?***

Westminster United Church offers the following opportunities for you to participate in:

Prayer Shawl Ministry	Tuesdays, 1:00 pm in the Lounge
Bible Study Group	Wednesdays, 9:30 am in the Lounge.
Senior Choir	7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

**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!

**Sunday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 and 6:00 pm:** Irvine Peace United Church Fall Supper. Roast Beef & Bake Sale. Tickets are \$17.00 for adults and children 5 - 12 are \$10.00. Please see Grace Roth for tickets. You can contact Grace at 403-527-0206.

Elkwater Girl Guide Camp will be celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Elkwater Girl Guide Camp, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. There will be a program at 2:00 pm. This event is open to the general public, especially former Guiders & Girls, and all current Guiding members. For further information, please contact [elaine.girlguides@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.girlguides@gmail.com).

A Farewell pot luck lunch and program for the Reverend Jan Stevenson will be held after the worship service on September 30 (changed from Sept. 23). 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](mailto: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.

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

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<b><i>Elder-in-Charge:</i></b>	Maureen Oster
<b><i>Scripture Reader:</i></b>	Sandra McDonald
<b><i>Greeters:</i></b>	Wayne & Arlea Harper
<b><i>Coffee Hosts:</i></b>	Albina Jackson, Linda Kisell
<b><i>Sound</i></b>	Pat Evans
<b><i>PowerPoint Operator</i></b>	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.

### **Today's Minute for Mission: Advocacy in Action**

Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries like Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry, which advocates for those on the margins of society in downtown Regina, Saskatchewan.

The ministry has been advocating for low-income individuals and families for almost 50 years and is the only community organization in the province to offer welfare advocacy services. Designated lay minister and advocate Bonnie Morton shares her passion for the work of Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry:

"The people that we serve at the ministry need more than money; they need services and programs that will help them improve their skills and abilities so they can better compete in the job market.

"A young man came to me because he had been cut off welfare. He had told his social worker that he did not have a grade 8 education and couldn't hold down a job. The government worker kept placing him in work positions that he continued to fail at. The last job was in construction. He couldn't read a measuring tape, and his fellow employees made fun of him. He came to us for help, and we appealed the decision to cut him off welfare. We were able to show that no one had listened to him, and we got him and his family back on welfare with retroactive payments. About four years later, this man came back to share with us that he had earned his grade 12 diploma, had gone on to graduate from a technical school with a certificate in engineering, and had just been offered a job. He is still working and hopefully will never have to depend on social assistance again."

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.