



Westminster United Church
Worship Service for September 23, 2018
Pentecost 17/Creation Time 4
Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Jan Stevenson

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

All: **No! In all these things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us.**

One: For all things work together for good for those who love God. All: And nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

One: Come, let us worship.

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

OPENING PRAYER

ALL: Whether you bring us up to the tops of the mountains or walk alongside us through the deepest valleys, God, we belong to you. We pray that you will make all things new, even the peaks and valleys of our hearts. Be our guest this morning as we sing and pray and learn about your vision of a world where enemies eat together, where everyone lives as long as the tallest trees, and where even work becomes a source of joy and abundance. 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: "***Morning Has Broken***" (VU 409)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

One: God, we have seen your vision from the mountain, and we believe in its broadness.

ALL: But we are weary, God who hears us, and we are often tempted to stop and turn back halfway through our journey. Forgive us, we pray. Restore us, renew us, reenergize us.

One: Remind us once more of the mystery of your grace, where we make space for your transformative love only by giving it away. Amen.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION:

One: Our God is making all things new, including each of us.

ALL: Let us accept God's abundance for ourselves so that we may offer it freely to others.

One: Let us make room for God's love in our hearts so that we may make room for all God's children in this world.

ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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 **Glen Motz, MP and Hillcrest Evangelical Missionary Church (Pastor Steve Pahl)**

South Alberta Presbytery invites you to pray for **Rolling Hills Pastoral Charge & Bob Wallace**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Holy One, as we listen for your Word, open our hearts and minds to discern its meaning. Grant us wisdom and knowledge to hear intentionally. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: **Isaiah 65:17–25**

ANTHEM: "**Rain Down**"

SCRIPTURE READING: **Mark 16:14–18**

MEDITATION: "**Hearing the Story**"

†HYMN: "**For the Fruit of All Creation**" (VU 227)

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

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

†DEDICATION:

ALL: God, we hunger for a world where all will live with abundance, where we will no longer hurt or destroy each other, where we turn more toward celebration and less toward exploitation, when we meet our neighbours and enemies. Accept these gifts which we now offer. Bless them, fill them, use them so they might help in creating your vision for the world. Amen.

THE NEW CREED: (Sung)

†CLOSING HYMN: "**Long Before the Night**" (VU 282)

†COMMISSIONING: (*Adapted from Beth W Johnston, **Gathering Pent 2 2018, p.41.** Used with permission*)

One: James advises his readers to live the word and not just to hear it, to watch what they say. And to act with caring and love for those in need.

ALL: May we go forth as those who live what we believe. Amen!

BENEDICTION:

†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

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.

The Youth and Family Group will once again be doing a bottle drive, with proceeds being allocated to the Vacation Bible School. Please bring your bottles to the church anytime between now and October 15.

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).

Would you be interested in visiting congregational members who are not able to attend church? The Pastoral Care Visitation Team is looking for a few more volunteers. Visits occur once every 2 months. If you are interested, please contact Betty Sidlick.

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.

Orange Shirt Day is an invitation for everyone to wear an orange shirt to remember and honour all the Indigenous children who went to Residential School and those children who died at school. On Sunday, September 30, wear an orange shirt and attend worship filled with compassion and the spirit of truth and reconciliation.

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:	Al Piotrowski
Scripture Reader:	Marg McCulley
Greeters:	Linda Kisell, Pat & Stan Bohnet
Coffee Hosts:	Vicki & Bob McCaig
Sound	Hayley McKim
PowerPoint Operator	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.

**Special Congregational Meeting of Westminster United Church
September 23, 2018**

Congregational Chair: Marg Taylor
Congregational Secretary: Jeannette Zollner

AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. Reception of Joint Needs Assessment Committee Report**
- B. Joint Needs Assessment Committee Recommendations**

That we request South Alberta Presbytery:

- 1) declare a vacancy for one ministry personnel position, full time.
- 2) appoint a Joint Search Committee
- 3) fill this position by call or appointment.

1. Constitution of meeting in the name of Jesus Christ:

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.

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

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

3. Presentation of Joint Needs Assessment Committee Report

4. Motion #2: "That the recommendations from the Joint Needs Assessment Committee be approved as presented."

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

5. Motion #3: "That the Board of Elders be authorized to elect members to a Joint Search Committee".

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

6. Motion #4: "That the meeting be adjourned."