



Westminster United Church **Worship Service for February 3rd, 2019** Today's Worship Leader is Sheila McLeod

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The world always asks, who will we include? Who matters? Who's the best?

All: Even in the church we often disagree. People feel left out and hurt.

One: Our families and schools, churches and malls challenge us: does our love show? Does God's love show in us?

All: God is love. And God's love is made perfect in us. Let us therefore come before God in hope and trust, so God's love might shine through us all.

One: Yes! Let us worship God.

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE : **"When the Wind of Winter Blows"(MV 71 vss 1&3)**

CELEBRATIONS

OPENING PRAYER:

One: Holy, Loving, Inviting God, in Jesus you call us to yourself and make us into a holy, loving and inviting people.

All: May we proclaim the good news of your reign in all we say, in all we do, in all we are in Westminster United Church, in Medicine Hat, and in all our communities.

One: God the Sending One, may your love transform us in worship.

All: God the Sent One, may your grace liberate us in ministry.

One: God our Strengthened, may your power lead us firmly and lovingly in mission.
Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

✠OPENING HYMN **"Let Us Build a House"(MV 1)**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

One: Jesus taught us not to be anxious about our lives or about tomorrow. Are there anxieties that cause us to feel separated from the peace Christ promises? Let us turn to God in prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

One: Merciful God, you made us in your image with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconstant, our obedience incomplete. Day by day we fail to grow into your

likeness. In your tender love, forgive. (***Time for Quiet Confession and Reflection***)

God of the Exodus **you set Israel free.**

Jesus of Easter, **you proclaimed freedom for all.**

Spirit of Liberation, **empower us to live in freedom. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God the Creator brings us new life, forgives and redeems us. Let us take hold of this forgiveness and live our lives in the Spirit of Jesus. **Amen.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN: "**Giraffes Can't Dance**" by Giles Andrede and Guy Parker-Rees. Orchard Books, New York, 2001.

INVITATION TO PRAYER: "**O, Great Spirit**" (VU 239 2X)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

HYMN: "**The Lord's Prayer**" (VU 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

One: Eternal God, in the reading of the scripture, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: **Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71;1-6; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:14-21**

ANTHEM: "**Let Your Light Shine**"

SERMON: "**Growing into Maturity through Love**"

†Hymn: "**I Am the Light of the World**" (VU87)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: "**Alternative Farming Brings Hope**"

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

†DOXOLOGY: "**Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands**" (VU 537 vs 2)

†DEDICATION:

One: We are called to be the Church, the witness of Christ in the world... disciples who follow in the steps of the One who lived within and for those confined to the outside of society. We are called to welcome the stranger in our midst. But our hospitality is hindered by our anxieties. Our open arms are closed by our fears.

All: Holy One, stir within us the flame of Solidarity, that we will commit ourselves to action: that by our thoughts, our words, our offerings, and our dreams the stranger in our midst will find their new home. Amen.

A NEW CREED: **Spoken (VU 918)**

†CLOSING HYMN: **"I'm Gonna Live so God Can use Me" (VU 575)**

†COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION:

One: May the God who dances in creation, who embraces us with human love, who shakes our lives like thunder, bless us and drive us out with power, to fill the world with justice.

All: Let us go into the world in peace, loving the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. Let us love our neighbour as ourselves. Amen.

†CHORAL **"Amen": (MV 225 2X)**

†SENDING FORTH HYMN: **"Go, Make a Difference" (MV 209 Chorus sung once)**

POSTLUDE

Resources for this service adapted from:

1. *Wisdom is Calling: An Anthology of Hope: An Agenda for Change.* Publisher - The United Church Publishing House, 1999. Pages, 49-50, 51, & 227.
2. *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services.* Publisher - The United Church Publishing House, 2000. Pages, 30, 38, 42, 45,71, & 73.

Announcements

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.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on February 24, 2019. There will be a brief sermon beforehand and a potluck lunch following. A reminder that reports need to be submitted to the church office for inclusion in the 2018 Annual Report.

The Nominations Committee of Wilton Thorsteinson, Linda Kisell and BJ Maddaford are seeking nominations for the Board of Elders and Board Committees. Please speak to any committee members for more information. Please consider volunteering for the Board of Elders or any of the Board Committees.

Nomination forms are available in Memorial Hall.

The U.C.W. will be holding a fund raising lunch after church today. We hope you will stay and enjoy the hamburger soup! Your free will offering will help the U.C.W. meet the commitments we have to Mission and Service and our other allocations (e.g. the Leprosy Fund, the Champion Centre, MHC Campus Ministry, the Women's Shelter, and others.) Watch for future soup, chili and egg buns in the months to come! The U.C.W will also be holding a "bake less" bake sale in May.

Changes to Food Bank Sunday: Beginning this Sunday, Feb. 3, you will have the opportunity to donate cash to the local Food Bank as an alternative to bringing in food donations. An separate envelope will be passed around during the offering and if you wish you may add any amount and it will be forwarded to the Food Bank on your behalf.

January and February editions of "The Upper Room" are available on the ramp.

Please DO NOT use the 2018 offering envelopes. Some numbers had to be changed, so you may have a new number. You can still sign up for PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) or ask for envelopes. With both these methods, you receive a Charitable Donation Receipt. Thanks. Contact Donna Scharf by e-mail rdscharf@shaw.ca or phone 403-526-1555.

Donations at Coffee Time for February are allocated to the UCW.

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

<i>Elder-in-Charge:</i>	Linda Kisell
<i>Scripture Reader:</i>	Hayley McKim
<i>Greeters:</i>	Wayne and Arlea Harper
<i>Coffee Hosts</i>	Al Piotrowski, Betty & John Sidlick
<i>Minutes For Mission</i>	Sharon Clay
<i>Sound</i>	Melanie Rattai
<i>PowerPoint Operator</i>	Kathy Nielsen
<i>Wheelchair Lift Operator</i>	Pat Evans