



**Westminster United Church**  
**Worship Service for April 7th, 2019**  
Today's Worship Leader is Sheila McLeod  
Lent 5

*"We are a faith community building relationships with God, all people, and our world."*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Through the prophet Isaiah God says, "I will make away in the wilderness and rivers in the desert... to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise." Since our purpose is to praise God let us fulfill that purpose today and praise God. Let us worship.

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: **"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery" (VU 121 vss 4&5)**

OPENING PRAYER:

**All: Most Holy God, we rejoice in our awareness of your presence and we offer our praise today. As you enter our lives, refresh and renew us; grant that we may live with love, following Jesus' example, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, through whom we pray. Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

✠OPENING HYMN: **"Spirit Open My Heart" (MV 79)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

One: God, you have called us to be pilgrims.

**All: Forgive us when we weary of the journey and seek security rather than the open road.**

One: Forgive us when we feel the risk of the journey is too great.

**All: Grant us pilgrim spirits in this Lenten season and lead us to the new life of Easter, we pray.**

*(Time for Silent Reflection and Confession)*

In the assurance of your love and forgiveness we pray.

**Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: On the journey of Lent we seek a spirit of discernment and wisdom. On the journey of Lent we move toward relationship with God.

**All: Let us follow Jesus and know new life. Let us seek the Spirit and know new insight. Let us move toward God and know grace. Thank God that we are forgiven. Amen.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN: **"The Shadow of a Flying Bird"** A Story by Mordicai Gerstein. Publisher - Hyperion Books for Children. 1994

INVITATION TO PRAYER: **"Listen, God is calling" (MV 97 2X)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:  
**"The Lord's Prayer" (Spoken)**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

One: God of call, God of transformation, God of the Lenten journey; help us discern your voice. Open us to change...growth and death, comfort and suffering, transformation and newness, that we may walk with Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

**Isaiah 43:16-21**

One: This is the witness of Israel.

**All: Thanks be to God for the Word.**

**Philippians 3:4b-14**

One: This is the witness of the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM: **"No Greater Love"**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:1-8

One: This is the good News of Jesus Christ

**All: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.**

MEDITATION: **"The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ Jesus"**

†HYMN: **"I See a New heaven" (VU713)**

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **"Fighting Human Trafficking"**

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

†DOXOLOGY: **"Grant Us God the Grace" (VU540 2X)**

†DEDICATION:

**All: Extravagant God, like Mary who anointed Jesus' feet you lavish us with love and acceptance. In response we offer our gifts of money, time and talent, expressing our commitment to your way. May our offerings bring hope and shalom to this congregation and to your world. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

†A NEW CREED: **Sung**

†CLOSING HYMN: **"Like a Healing Stream" (MV 144)**

†COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION:

One: : Let us return now to our world with its pain and wonder, remembering the hopeful words of Isaiah, the faithfulness of Mary who anointed Jesus' feet, and the longing of all who yearn for a sign of hope. Through God's grace, let us be that sign of hope.

And may the blessing of God, the love of Christ, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, who moves within us and throughout our world, rest upon us and abide with us this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

**A JOURNEY WITH JESUS: A LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY (*Gathering-adapted*)**

*Lest we think that Lent is only a somber time, let us remember that it is also a rich and abundant time. Just as the desert is not a barren place but, in fact, a very fertile yet largely unknown place, Lent provides opportunities for us to see and experience incredible abundance and extravagance. Too often, we miss these moments because they appear alongside difficulties and sadness.*

***Extinguish the fifth candle***

Prayers for this service adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services*. The United Church Publishing House. 2000. Pages 152,154. 156, 157, & 93.

### **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.

#### **Update from the Joint Search Committee:**

**The Joint Search Committee will be extending the deadline for ministerial applications to May 12, 2019 due to technical difficulties with the new ChurchHub system.**

**Cam Lockerbie**  
**Chair**

**The Westminster UCW will be hosting an Easter Egg Bun Luncheon after the Cantata on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Come join for great food and fellowship in the Memorial Hall!**

Be sure to mark your calendar for the "**Lunch at FAM Event**" coming soon. FAM will be hosting lunch at noon on the first 4 Tuesdays in April, serving soup, dessert & a beverage for only \$5.00. Gluten free options will be available. This is a fundraiser for the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter

**Irvine Spring Supper at Peace United Church** will be held on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> There will be two seating's: 4:30 & 6pm. Fare will include Ham, sausage and perogies. There will also be a silent auction and bake sale. Tickets for Adults are \$17.00 and \$10.00 for children. To purchase tickets call: 403 527-0206.

**Celebrate Music VI** will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> hosted by Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church at 7pm. Tickets are \$20.00 and are available from Stone Furs, FAM office, Proceeds go to the Tower Restoration Fund.

April and May editions of "The Upper Room" are available on the ramp.

**"They Say It's Spring"** Joyful Sound Ladies' Chorus Of FAM performing Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 PM . Admission is \$10.00 at the door(FAM), \$5.00 for children 12 and under.

**U of A Mixed Chorus** featuring The Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers will be performing a concert at Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church @ 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 2. Free Will Offering.

**Changes to Food Bank Sunday:** you will have the opportunity to donate cash to the local Food Bank as an alternative to bringing in food donations. A 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.

Donations at Coffee Time for April are allocated to Champion Centre

**Lenten Mid-Week Services will begin March 6<sup>th</sup> on Ash Wednesday until April 10<sup>th</sup>.  
All services begin at 7 p.m. at the Following Host Congregations:**

**April 10<sup>th</sup>    Unity Lutheran (599 12<sup>th</sup> Street N.W.) Rev. Kristy Reimers-Loader**

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

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

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<b><i>Elder-in-Charge:</i></b>	Linda Kisell
<b><i>Greeters:</i></b>	John & Betty Sidlick
<b><i>Scripture Reader:</i></b>	Anna Marie Hancock
<b><i>Minutes for Mission:</i></b>	Sandra McDonald
<b><i>Coffee Hosts:</i></b>	Lynne Graff & Al Piotrowski
<b><i>Sound :</i></b>	Hayley McKim
<b><i>PowerPoint Operator:</i></b>	Kathy Nielsen
<b><i>Wheelchair Lift Operator:</i></b>	Pat Evans

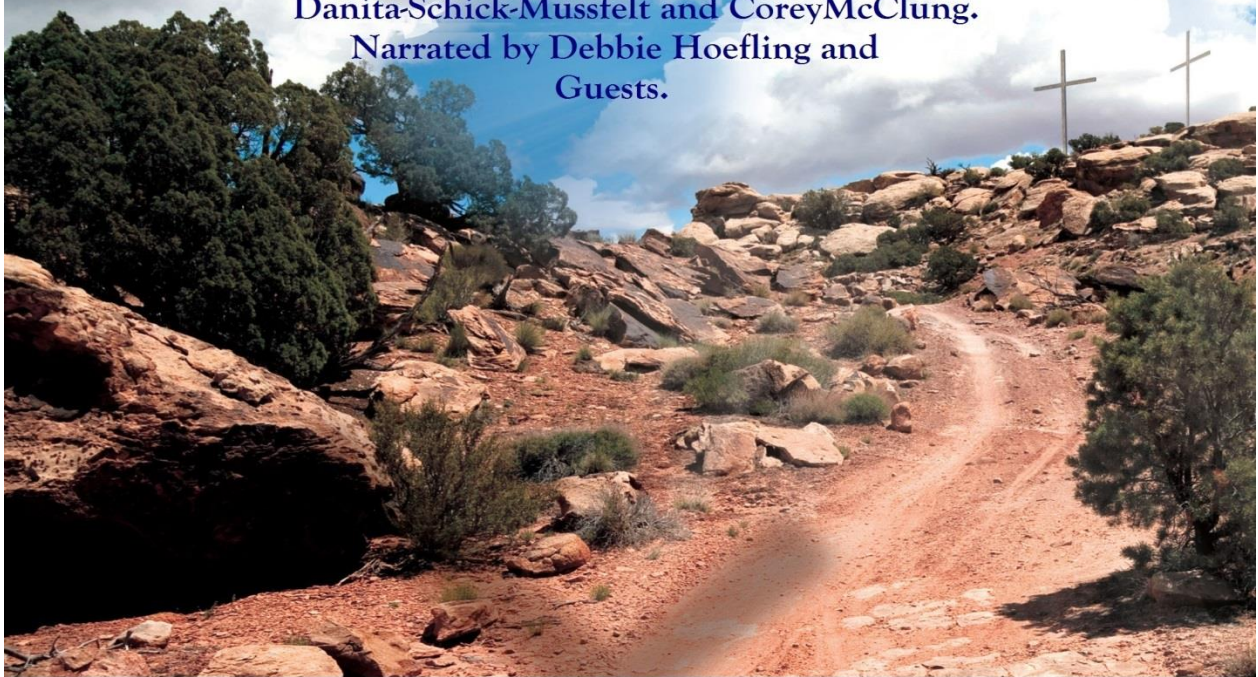
# Come Walk With Me

Through the Passion and Resurrection of Christ

## Pepper Choplin

An Easter Cantata by Pepper Choplin with  
Danita-Schick-Mussfelt and Corey McClung.

Narrated by Debbie Hoefling and  
Guests.



Presented By: Westminster United Church Choir  
Directed By: Chris White  
Sunday April 14th @ 10:30 am &  
Monday April 15th @ 7pm  
Westminster United Church Sanctuary  
101 6th Street SE, Medicine Hat, AB (403) 526 - 5247