



**Westminster United Church**  
**Worship Service for March 10, 2019**  
Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Helen Reid

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Romans 10:8b–13)

One; If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

All: **For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.**

One: For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.

All: **For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

One: Let us worship God in confidence and joy.

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

OPENING PRAYER: (*unison*)

All: **Life-giving God, we come to worship you through Jesus, the bread of life, the living water. Thank you for your invitation to come, and the reflection of you that we see in the faces of those around us. Thank you for this opportunity to praise you together. Guide us more deeply into the mystery of your will for us and the beauty of your presence here. Let your peace fill us and overflow to bless others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

SHARING THE PEACE

†OPENING HYMN: **"As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought" (VU 518)**

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

One: Today is the first Sunday in Lent, a time of reflection when we are invited to take stock of our lives. Jesus did this many times, by going to the wilderness to pray, by going out in a boat to escape the crowds and the demands of his life, and going up the mountain with his friends to re-evaluate his life and prepare himself for what was ahead of him.

Jesus' life provides the perfect backdrop for us in this time of reflection, because all the things he felt and did are parts of our lives, too. When we feel down or discouraged, we know that he, too, experienced these times. When we feel angry or alone we can take comfort in knowing that Jesus has already been there ahead of

us. So, each week as we extinguish a candle, we will recall and remember a part of Jesus' life and our own lives.

Today, we extinguish this first candle to remind us of the temptations in life. We do this knowing that Jesus experienced many temptations. When we ask, his Holy Spirit will provide courage for us, as well, in our trials.

*(The first candle is extinguished)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION :*(unison)*

All: **Merciful God, in this season of Lent, we come to you in our difficulties and weakness. We know we need to change so many things but we don't know where to start. We have so many aspirations and so little follow through. We get confused about where our responsibilities lie. We either do too little or too much. We don't want to hurt others but too quickly just think of ourselves. Hear us as we make our personal confessions.** *(silence)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:1 John 1:8-9

One: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

All: **Thanks be to God**

INVITATION TO PRAYER: **"Be still and Know" (MV 77 2X)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

**"The Lord's Prayer" (Spoken)**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

One: Gracious God You speak to us in so many ways, through the beauty of fresh snow on tree branches, through a happy 'coincidence', in the caring of a friend, in scripture or comment that comes alive for us. Speak to us now in ways that touch our deepest needs and desires, through Jesus, the Word made flesh, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

One: This is the witness of the First Covenant

All: **Thanks be to God**

ANTHEM: **"On Eagles Wings"**

GOSPEL READING: Luke 4:1-13

One: This is the good news of Jesus Christ

All: **Thanks be to God**

MEDITATION: "Temptation or Testing?"

†HYMN: "If Our God Had Simply Saved Us" (VU 131 vs. 1,2,3,10,12,14 & 15)

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

†DOXOLOGY: ?

†DEDICATION: (unison)

**All: O God, out of the abundance you have given us, we bring a portion to you. Bless and use these gifts to bring peace and hope in this community and in the hurting spots of the world.**

**We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Amen**

A NEW CREED: **Sung**

COMMUNION Invitation to the Table:

One: This table is the table of our lord. Because he loves us unreservedly and passionately, we come joyfully and expectantly. Here he feeds us with the living bread, the healing cup. Come to the feast. You are invited.

One: God be with you

**All: and also with you**

One: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift our hearts in prayer**

One: Let us give thanks to God

**All: It is good and right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Loving God, Source of all that is, we thank and praise you with our lips and with our lives. You have created us and all things through your word; now you welcome our prayer and praise. For the goodness of creation and the glory of redemption, we praise you. For the season of Lent inviting our repentance and calling us to refuse temptation, we praise you.

Therefore with all that is seen and unseen, and with all the faithful of every time and place, we join together in praise and thanksgiving

**All: Holy, Holy Holy God, power of life and love**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna through the ages.**

**Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to earth.**

One: Loving God, Holy One, we offer you praise and thanksgiving over this bread and cup, because in Jesus Christ, your only Son, you have joined yourself forever to us, uniting heaven and earth, spirit and matter.

Now therefore we gratefully remember Jesus' birth into our humanity, baptism for our reconnection to you, compassion for our suffering, intimacy with our frailty, rebuke of our pride, bearing of the cross with its death, and rising from the tomb by your power, so that we might live.

On the night before he died, it was Jesus who took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it and said, Take and eat. Whenever you do this, remember me. Likewise after supper, he took the cup, saying this is the new covenant, remember me.

**All: We proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

One: Loving God, creative power, we bless your name; we seek your Spirit. Come to us in these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, the sign and seal of our forgiveness in him and your enduring love for us, your children. As we eat and drink together, make us one with Christ and one in Christ, a sign of his eternal reign in all the world.

This sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we offer you, loving God, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever, Amen

BREAKING THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP  
RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: *(unison)*

**All: Holy and loving God, in this sacrament, you have given us your very self. Let what we have participated in here guide and strengthen us for the days ahead. Thank you for the privilege of carrying within us the presence of our Lord into a needy world. Quicken in us Jesus' wisdom and mercy that we may bless others as he has blessed us. In his name we pray, Amen**

✠CLOSING HYMN: " **I Love to Tell the Story**" (VU 343)

✠COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)

One: The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

✠CHORAL " **Amen**" (VU 969)

POSTLUDE

### ***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.

**Message from Anna Marie regarding Spring Newsletter:**

"It's almost spring (thank goodness) and it is time for our Spring Newsletter. I am asking for contributions for this newsletter.

If you have anything you would like to submit, please email it to me at [annah@telusplanet.net](mailto:annah@telusplanet.net), you could give it to me in person, or leave it in my mailbox on the ramp.

I generally take stories, cartoons, inspirational quotes, or maybe your favourite recipe.....whatever you would like to share with the people of Westminster. The deadline for contributions is March 18th. Thanks for helping me put together the newsletter! "

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

**"Raising the Roof in Song"** – coffee house style entertainment in Taylor Hall with many popular local talents performing on Friday, April 5, 7:00pm at St John's Presbyterian Church (504-2 St SE). Free will offering to help offset the costs of Taylor Hall roof repairs. Refreshments & snacks provided.

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

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March 6 (Ash Wednesday)	St. Barnabas Anglican 635 4th Street S.E.	Rev. Dave Pollard
March 13	St. Peter Lutheran 758 8th Street S.E.	Rev. Jeff Lackie
March 20	Fifth Avenue Memorial 476 4th Street S.E.	Rev. Shane Hein
March 27	St. John's Presbyterian 504 2nd Street S.E.	Rev. Jeff Decelle
April 3	Westminster United 101 6th Street S.E.	Rev. Oz Lorentzen
April 10	Unity Lutheran 599 12th Street N.W.	Rev. Kristy Reimers- Loader

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Knox United Church in Taber Will be having an "Irish Stew Supper" on Tuesday March 14, 2019 from 5pm to 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for Children and \$25.00 for families.

**Living the Questions 2.0 Progressive Faith Study** has resumed at Fifth Avenue United. Please join us for any or all sessions!

Wednesday Feb. 27, and Tuesday March 5, 12, 19, and 26, from 7:00 to 8:30 in the Memorial-Salem Room (library/lounge). Each weekly 20-minute DVD features several of 30 interesting and diverse religion leaders on a specific theme, followed by discussion. Drinks and snacks are also available. Sample topics are "Evil, Suffering & A God of Love" (Feb 27) and "Honoring Creation" (March 26),

**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.

Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner and Dessert Auction Fundraiser on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. Tickets are \$25.00 with a \$20.00 tax receipt and are available at the FAM office(403)-526-2237

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.

March and April 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](mailto:rdscharf@shaw.ca) or phone 403-526-1555.

Donations at Coffee Time for March are allocated to Haitian Coffee

***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>	Marg McCulley
<b><i>Scripture Reader:</i></b>	Hayley McKim
<b><i>Greeters:</i></b>	Pat & Stan Bohnet
<b><i>Coffee Hosts</i></b>	Judy Cruickshank
<b><i>Sound</i></b>	Pat Evans
<b><i>PowerPoint Operator</i></b>	Kathy Nielsen
<b><i>Wheelchair Lift Operator</i></b>	Pat Evans