



Westminster United Church
Worship Service for April 21st, 2019
Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Helen Reid
Easter Sunday/Communion

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

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Gathering)

One: We followed Jesus through his life, his love, his joy, and his teaching, and found him in the hands of betrayers, deniers, and those too complacent to do anything. Then he was gone. So, is that it, the end?

All: No. That is only part of the story. Like him, we too face temptations and trials. Like him, we too find ourselves in the presence of deniers, betrayers, false prophets, and fair-weather friends. But the God of Jesus, our God, has shown us that the chaos, corruption, suffering, and evil of this world will never be all that is. It will not be the final answer. With every death comes resurrection. With every ending, there is a new beginning. That is the Good News of Easter.

One: We have lit this candle to celebrate that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, a light that nothing can ever extinguish.

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: **"Christ within Us is Hidden" (MV 162)**

OPENING PRAYER: (VU 174)

All: God of resurrection, you have rolled the stone away and the tomb of our world has been opened wide. With the dawn has come a new creation. Let our celebration today empty our tombs, renew our lives, and release your power; through the risen Christ we pray. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

Let us give one another the Easter Greeting:

Christ is Risen

He is Risen Indeed.

✠OPENING HYMN: **"Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks" (VU 179)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

All: Gracious God, you are the beginning and end of all things. We know that we have not always been faithful to your plan for us, and we humbly seek your forgiveness.

For our shallowness in loving, forgive us.

For our silences when we should have spoken up, forgive us.

For talking when we should have listened, forgive us.

For our hesitancy in forgiving, when we know we could make the same mistake ourselves, forgive us.

For holding on to grudges, forgive us.

Free us, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

(a time of silence for personal confession and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: The same God who offers us new life in Christ also hears us when we confess, and forgives us and sets us free.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: (Gathering, Fern Gibbard)

One: The disciples said, "We have seen the Lord!"
We come today, seeking that same Lord.
We ask that you reveal yourself to us,
in all your risen power, through word and witness,
and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Amen.

BIBLICAL NOTES:

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 65:17-25:

One: This is the witness of the prophet.

ALL: Thanks be to God for the Word.

ANTHEM: "He Arose "

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 23:50-24:12

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

ALL: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.

SERMON: "Resurrection"

LIFE AND WORK: "Announcements"

OFFERTORY:

✠DOXOLOGY: "**Your Work O God Needs Many Hands**" (VU 537)

✠DEDICATION :(Gathering, Laura Turnbull)

All: God our Rock, your strong message of daring love challenges us to live courageous gratitude. with thankful hearts, we share our resources. With humble spirits, we offer ourselves. With gracious faith, we commit ourselves to the ministry of Jesus Christ. Amen.

✠A NEW CREED: (VU 918) Spoken

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

One: The Prince of Peace has conquered evil and given us the victory. In Him we are more than conquerors For Christ is Risen!

All: He is Risen indeed!

One: You and I are invited to his table. Come in faith, hope, and love.

✠Hymn: VU #477 "**I come with Joy**"

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: We are richly blessed, O God our maker and liberator,
for you made the world and all that is in it;
you created us, and named us good;
and you have always lived among us.

Though we human beings often lost our way,
you always loved us and led us carefully.

You sent your Child, Jesus, to be our teacher and guide.

When we failed to understand him,

when fearing what he could represent, or disrupt, we killed him,
even then you reached for all of us in love.

We found his tomb empty on Easter morning.
We learned the Good News that Jesus was alive.
Not even his death could break your love for us.
You raised him to new life, and offer new life for us all.
Therefore, we join with all heaven and earth,
and with the faithful from every time and place,
giving thanks and saying:

**All: Christ is risen from the dead, glory, hallelujah!
hallelujah! Jesus Christ is risen, glory, hallelujah!**

One: On the night before he died,
Jesus ate supper with his friends -
they were all outcasts and sinners like us.
He took the bread, gave thanks,
broke it saying,
"Take this and eat it:
this bread is my body, which I give for you.
Whenever you gather,
do this and remember me."

All: Hallelujah!

One: Jesus took the cup of wine, gave you thanks,
and gave it to his friends, saying,
"Drink this, everyone:
the wine is my life blood, which I give for you,
and for everyone.
When you drink together, do this and remember me."

All: Hallelujah!

One: Great God of all, Jesus' self giving shows us that sin and death
have no final power. You raised him to new life:
you give us life everlasting. Therefore we proclaim

**All: Christ had died,
Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.
Hallelujah!**

One: And so we ask that you send your Holy Spirit upon us,
upon this bread and this wine,
so that everyone who comes to this table
may become one body, one flesh, and one spirit,
one with Christ, through Christ,
and in Christ, forever and ever. Amen

Breaking the Bread and pouring the Wine

Distribution of the Elements.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

**All: God of majesty and mercy, you have invited us to your banquet and we
have been fed. We praise you for including us in the company of your**

people of every age and race. May what we have received and done here mark and empower us to be witnesses to the new life Jesus opens for us. Prompt and guide us for the days ahead. In the power of his Spirit we pray, Amen.

✠CLOSING HYMN: **VU 189 "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise"** to the tune of VU 85

✠COMMISSIONING :(Gathering, Joy Cowan)

One: God is the source of all love;

All: we are being sent out to live compassion.

One: God is the source of all healing;

All: we are being entrusted with the work of reconciliation.

One: God is the centre of all peace;

All: we are being called to live in peace with one another.

One: This week, as you go about God's work of peace, reconciliation, and compassion, may you feel surrounded by God's presence and may you always remember that you are loved beyond measure.

Go now in peace.

✠BENEDICTION:

One: The blessing of God the Father who creates us, the Son who redeems us and the Holy Spirit who empowers us will continue to keep us always.

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: VU **586 "We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection"**

✠CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE:

In his [Easter message](#), Moderator Richard Bott reflects on Easter, the resurrection, as a trumpet call to the church, to the body of Christ, to all Jesus' disciples, to fantastic actions that bring life—actions that challenge and actions that make deep change. Go to the UCC website or watch it on the [YouTube channel](#)

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 U.C.W will be holding a "bakeless" bake sale fundraiser every Sunday at W.U.C throughout the month of May. Details upcoming...

Be sure to mark your calendar for the "**Lunch at FAM Event**". 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

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 28th @ 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.

"SING INTO SPRING" with the Tartones Men's chorus concert Sunday, May 5th 2:00pm @ St.John's Presbyterian Church. A diverse program with Edmond Camphor, Guest Soloist Directed by Judith Dickie, Accompanist, Allison Kapcala. 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

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:

Scripture Reader

Greeters:

Coffee Hosts:

Sound :

PowerPoint Operator:

Wheelchair Lift Operator:

Wally Bergstreser

Everett & Clara White

Albina Jackson & Sharon Clay

Pat Evans

Kathy Nielsen

Pat Marshall