



**Westminster United Church**  
**Worship Service for March 31st, 2019**  
Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Bob Cruickshank  
Lent 4

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

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: You are precious to God who loves and forgives you. Continue to proclaim this good news to the world.

**Congregation: In Christ, we are a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**

Leader: We are ambassadors for Christ, God making God's appeal through us.

**Congregation: All who repent are welcomed home, and all who serve faithfully are blessed.**

**ALL: O taste and see that God is good! Happy are all who take refuge in God.**

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

OPENING PRAYER:

**All: Gracious God, day after day, age after age, you are present. You come to us as the God of all comfort, the Way of Life, the Eternal Spirit.**

**As we continue our Lenten journey, we rejoice that in Christ we can dare to face the truth about ourselves, because we know the deeper truth of your reconciling love.**

**Your love is revealed in the father running to welcome his wayward son home, with outstretched arms.**

**Your love prompted your own Son to stretch out his arms on the cross for us.**

**Your love surrounds us even now as we gather in Christ's name.**

**May we experience your love anew in our worship, so that we leave this place with transformed hearts and imaginations, eager to carry Christ's message of reconciling love to others. Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

✠OPENING HYMN: **"God Of Still Waiting" (MV 20)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Leader: Gracious God, through Christ's death on the cross, you forgive our sins and accept us into your family as beloved children. We confess that we don't always love as though we are included in the circle of your reconciling love.

**Congregation: Sometimes we refuse your guidance and stubbornly choose to go our own way, convinced we know the path to true happiness. When we lose our way or do something we regret, we refuse to believe that you could forgive us. Instead we condemn ourselves and live as outcasts to your love.**

Leader: At other times, we are so proud of the way we live that we condemn others as unworthy of your love and acceptance. We refuse to accept them as our sisters and brothers, and cut ourselves off from them and from you.

**ALL: Forgive us, great God of reconciling love, and grant that, in the midst of life's uncertainties, we may grow in the certainty of your constant love for us and for all people. Enable us to hear and accept your word of forgiving love and transforming grace. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Leader: "Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose in power for us, Christ reigns with God for us. Christ prays for us." Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Soften our hearts, O God, and open our minds, as we listen to the words of scripture, so that we may be like fertile soil in which you plant your living Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS (led by Reader)

**Psalms 32 (VU 759)**

Leader: This is the witness of ancient song writers

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5: 16-21**

Leader: This is the witness of the Church

**All: Thanks be to God**

ANTHEM: **" God Will Open a Door"**

**Gospel Luke 15: 1-3; 11-32** (read by minister)

Leader: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ

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

MEDITATION: **"Welcome Home!"**

†HYMN: **"My Life Flows On" (VU716)**

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **"No One to Notify"**

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

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

†DEDICATION:

**We place these gifts into your hands, O God. Change them with your transforming grace, that they may become seeds springing forth with new life. Fill our hearts with new songs of praise, so we can bear new hope for weary souls. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

†A NEW CREED: **Sung**

†CLOSING HYMN: **"I See a New Heaven" (VU 713)**

†COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION:

Leader: May God bless us; may God keep us in the Spirit's care.

**ALL: May Christ's warm welcome shine from our hearts, and Christ's own peace prevail, through this and every day, till greater life shall call. Amen.**

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

The events of Lent and our own personal reflections constantly remind us that no matter where we are or what just happened, God is here and will help us if we ask. Today, we hear about a son who was lost and a father who finds him. This happens when the son finds humility to admit his mistakes and ask his father for help. How much more our Mother/Father God will help us if we honestly admit our mistakes and accept God's unconditional forgiveness."

***Extinguish the fourth candle***

### **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***

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

#### **Gordon Memorial United Church "Spring Tea"**

Sunday, March 31 @ 2-4pm Tickets are \$5:00 at the door or call Reita Wilson @ (403)548-3517. Prizes and Bake Table!

***"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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

Donations at Coffee Time for March are allocated to Haitian Coffee

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Westminster United (101 6<sup>th</sup> St. S.E.) Rev. Oz Lorentzen**

**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>	Maureen Oster
<b><i>Greeters:</i></b>	Linda Kisell
<b><i>Scripture Reader:</i></b>	Hayley McKim
<b><i>Minutes for Mission:</i></b>	Betty Sidlick
<b><i>Coffee Hosts:</i></b>	Mike & Joan Jantzie
<b><i>Sound :</i></b>	Melanie Rattai
<b><i>PowerPoint Operator:</i></b>	Kathy Nielsen
<b><i>Wheelchair Lift Operator:</i></b>	Pat Evans

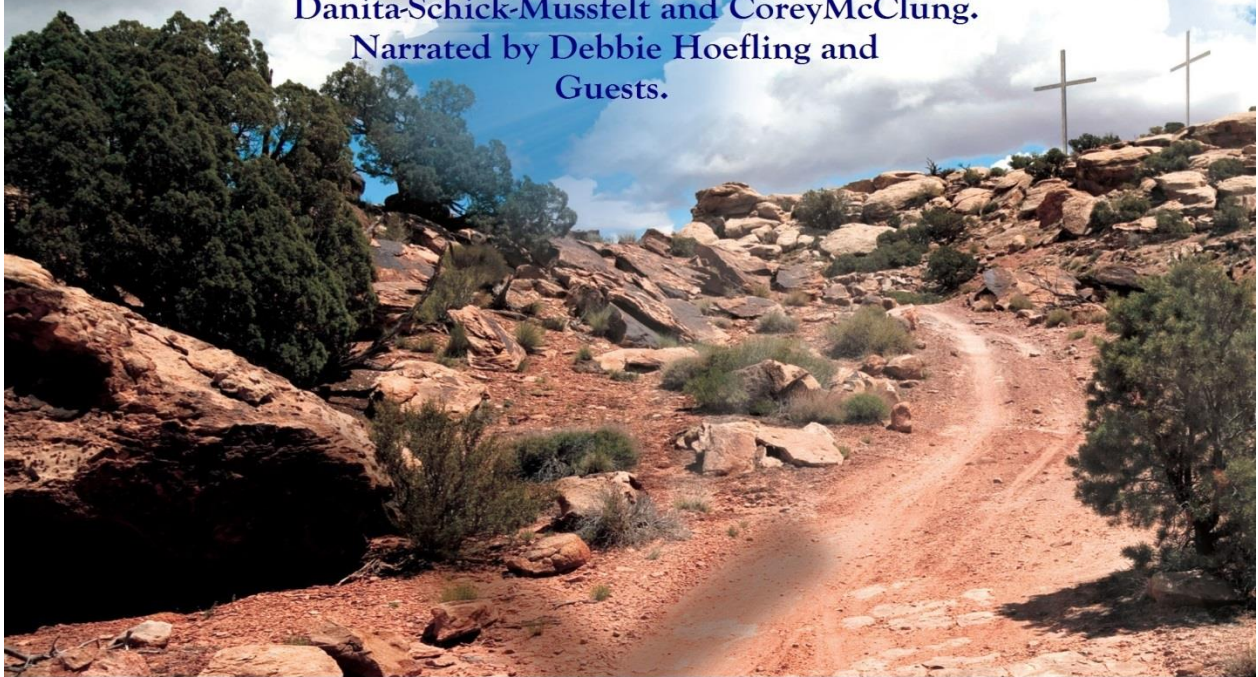
# Come Walk With Me

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