



Westminster United Church
Worship Service for June 2nd, 2019
Today's Worship Leader is Sheila McLeod
Celebration of Ascension Day

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

CALL TO WORSHIP: from Psalm 47

One Clap your hands, all you peoples, cry out to God with shouts of joy!

All: For the Most High is to be feared, reigning in might, over all the earth.

Hallelujah! God has gone up with a shout!

One: God has gone up with shouts of triumph,

All: has gone up with a fanfare of trumpets.

One: For God reigns over all the earth!

All: Sing praises with your utmost skill.

Hallelujah! God has gone up with a shout!

†PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: **"Christ Within Us is Hidden" (MV 162 vs 1&3)**

OPENING PRAYER: **Ascension Day Prayer (VU 191)**

**All: Mighty God,
by your power you raised Jesus Christ to rule over us.
We praise you that he puts down tyrannies
that threaten to destroy us,
and unmask powers that claim our allegiance.
We thank you that he alone commands our lives,
and gives us freedom to love the world.
Glory to you for the gift of his life!
Glory to you for his saving death!
Glory to you for Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns as our risen Lord. Amen.**

CELEBRATIONS:

SHARING THE PEACE

†OPENING HYMN: **"I Can Feel You Near Me God" (MV 48)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

One: God of all creation, you love us into being, yet we often flee our rightful place in your creation.

All: We confess we exploit the gifts you place around us, and dominate the richness of the natural order. Forgive our greedy grasping.

One: We confess our part in the devastation of our planet home, mirrored in the violence of human communities, and the brokenness of hearts.

All: Forgive and restore us, O God.

One: Nurturing God, remind us of other ways to live and of a place called home,

All: where creation reflects your goodness and each thing lives in balance with all others. Come and find us, set us right again, and take us home.

(Time of Silent Confession and Reflection)

One: In the name of our Ascended Lord we pray.

All: Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: Psalm 47 reminds us, when we are earth's defenders, defenders of creation, justice and truth... we belong to God, for the psalmist proclaims, "God reigns over all the nations, and sits in holiness enthroned. The nobles of the nations assemble with the people of the Everlasting God. For earth's defenders belong to God, to God the highly exalted.

All: Praise to God who reigns above! Hallelujah! Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN: **"Graduation"**

INVITATION TO PRAYER: **"Seek Ye First the Kingdom" (VU 356 vs 1&2)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

"The Lord's Prayer" (Sung)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

One: Before ascending Christ said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then

he opened their minds to understand the scriptures." Surely he, through the Holy Spirit, does the same for us and will do it again today. Let us pray:

All: O God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear what you are saying to us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: **Acts 1:1-11, Eph. 1:15-23**

One: This is the witness of the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

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

SCRIPTURE READING: **Luke 24:44-53**

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ

All: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.

SERMON: **"Graduating with Eyes of the Heart Enlightened"**

†HYMN: **"Draw the Circle Wide" (MV 145)**

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **"A Health Crisis"**

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERING PRAYER:

All: Ever-Present God, with this offering, we present also ourselves: all that we have been, all that we are, and all that we shall become, and our resolve to walk in your way. Accept us and our offering, we pray for Jesus' sake. Amen.

OFFERTORY:

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

†DEDICATION:

†A NEW CREED: (Spoken)

†CLOSING HYMN: **"Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"**

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!
He whose word cannot be broken
Chose thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake our sure repose?
With salvation's wall surrounded,
Thou may'st smile on all thy foes.
See! the streams of living waters,
Springing from celestial love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters
And all fear of drought remove.
Round each habitation hov'ring,
See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a cov'ring,
Showing that the Lord is near.
Blest inhabitants of Zion,
Purchased by the Savior's blood;
Jesus, whom their souls rely on,
Makes them kings and priests to God.
While in love his Saints he raises,
With himself to reign as King,
All, as priests, his solemn praises
For thank-off'rings freely bring.

†COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION:

All: God the Sender, send us. God the Sent, come with us. God the Strengthener of those who go, empower us, that we may go with you and find those who will call you Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

One: Let us go in the power and presence of the Risen God - Creator, Accompanier, and Strengthening Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

†SENDING FORTH: **"We shall go Out with Hope of Resurrection" (VU 586)**

CHORAL AMEN

Postlude

Resources for this service adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence; A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada*. Publisher - The United Church Publishing House in 2000. Pages 32, 201, 44, & 50.

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 WUC Mission & Outreach Committee will be collecting cash donations to be allocated towards the Medicine Hat Food Bank on the First Sunday of every month.

Sunday Worship Services for July 2019 will be held at Westminster United Church.

The July/August Edition of the Upper Room is available on the ramp.

Donations at Coffee Time for during June are allocated to Haitian Coffee

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:	Marg Taylor
Greeters:	Linda Kisell & Donna Scharf
Scripture Reader:	Marg McCulley
Minutes for Mission:	Dawn Knowles
Coffee Hosts:	Albina Jackson, Dale & Lenora Stein
Sound :	Pat Evans
PowerPoint Operator:	Kathy Nielsen
Wheelchair Lift Operator:	Pat Evans

