



**Westminster United Church**  
**Worship Service for June 30th, 2019**  
Today's Worship Leader is Marg McCulley

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP: (David Lander, Gathering)**

One: Welcome to this celebration of life we call worship, this celebration of God in life and of life in God, and of whatever else is good in life. And if there's stuff that isn't going all that well in our lives, we welcome God who is known to walk alongside people with overwhelming cares and to go to bat for those in trauma. Welcome to a congregation that has been known to throw its arms around folks in need and is here to inspire us all to do the same. Welcome to this congregation and to this connecting time we call worship.

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: **"Put Peace into Each Other's Hands" (MV 173 vs. 1&5)**

**OPENING PRAYER: (Suzanne Edgar, Gathering)**

One: Gracious and Loving God when we have done all we can to make peace and seek justice for all, we can continue to pray with our hearts and our words.

**All: When we have done all we can to feed those who are hungry and provide shelter for those who are homeless, we can continue to pray with our hearts and our actions**

One: We who recognize the Spirit in all, can continue to follow Jesus.

**All: We can surround our community and our world in prayer, O God, and when we can act no longer, we can continue to pray, for your Spirit never leaves us. Amen**

SHARING THE PEACE

✠OPENING HYMN: **"Come In, Come In and Sit Down" (VU 395)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION **(Gord Dunbar, Gathering)**

**Here we are, God, ordinary people. You know our strengths and weaknesses—and yet you call us to follow. We are tempted to run away, to just live like we did before you called, to leave it all to others. Yet you persist, persuasively, forcefully, saying, "Follow me. Give of yourself. Love"**

**Although we don't feel worthy, you haven't gone away; you continue to beckon. Through our struggle, you strengthen us. Despite our inner doubts, you enliven us. Stay with us as we follow, we pray, that we might become worthy. Amen**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: God does not take pleasure in our strength, or in our bravery, for we cannot make our own way out of the quagmire of life. It is God's pleasure for us to honour our Saviour Jesus, trusting in the constancy of God's love for our redemption.

**All: For if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Thanks be to God!**

INVITATION TO PRAYER: **"Lord Prepare Me" (MV 18 2X)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: **(Beth W. Johnston, Gathering)**

Loving God, our grace has accompanied your people down through the ages. From generation, you have been the God who has both called and equipped us for service. Help us this day to listen to your call and help us every day to respond in the ways we can. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING:

**Psalm 77(VU 791) Refrain (VU 400)**

**Refrain: Lord, listen to your children praying**

I cry aloud to God,  
I cry that God may hear me.

**In my time of distress I have turned to God;  
with hands uplifted I have prayed all night,  
but my soul refuses all comfort.**

**Refrain: Lord, listen to your children praying**

Then I recall your deeds, O God!  
I remember your wonders of old.  
I recount all your works and ponder the things you have done.

**O God, your ways are holy. What god is as great as you!**  
You are the one who works wonders;

you have shown your strength among nations.

**By your arm you redeemed your people,  
the children of Jacob and Joseph.**

**Refrain : Lord, listen to your children praying**

The waters saw you, O God,  
the waters saw you and churned in fear;  
**the seas trembled to their depths.**

Clouds streamed water, the heavens rumbled;  
**your arrows bolted on every side.**

The voice of your thunder was heard in the whirlwind;  
**lightning lit up the world,  
the earth quaked and shuddered.**

Your way was through the sea;  
**your path, through mighty waters;**  
your footprints could not be seen;  
**but by the hand of Moses and Aaron,  
you led your people like a flock.**

**Refrain: Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit  
in this place, Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send  
us power, send us grace!**

One: This is the witness of the ancient song-writers.

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

**Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

One: This is the witness of the Church.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Luke 9: 51-62**

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

SERMON: **"Following in Faith"**

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

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **"Summer is no Vacation from Poverty"**

LIFE AND WORK

INVITATION TO OFFERING :( **Bill Steadman, Gathering**)

We are invited to offer ourselves in service to others. And now we are invited to share our gifts for the work of Christ's church—in our own congregation, the community and throughout the whole world via Mission & Service of the United Church. Let us share our gifts with thankful hearts and sincere living in Christ's way. The offering will be received.

OFFERTORY:

†DOXOLOGY: "**We Give You but Your Own**" (VU 542)

†DEDICATION: (**Jim McKean**) adapted

**We come before you, O God, offering our gifts of talents and toil today as we have for the past year as we waited in hope for our church community. May our gifts be used for the greater good that is within you, and may they send a message of love to all who are in need, Amen**

A NEW CREED: **Sung**

†CLOSING HYMN: "**We Are Pilgrims**" (VU 595)

†COMMISSIONING/ BENEDICTION: (**Fern Gibbard, Gathering**)

One: We go forth knowing that

**All: we are being led by the hand of God;**

One: wherever we go, whatever we do,

**All: we are being led by the hand of God**

One: in times of trouble, in times of calm.

**All: we are being led by the hand of God:**

One: In life and in death, we know that

**All: we are being led by the hand of God. We ask for the grace to follow faithfully. Amen**

†CHORAL AMEN

†SENDING FORTH: "**You Shall Go Out With Joy**" (VU 884)

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.

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

***The Joint Search Committee received a good number of applications from qualified candidates.***

***We short-listed them, and then conducted initial interviews via Skype on June 17 and 20.***

***Each candidate was impressive.***

***Our next objective is to reconvene the Joint Search Committee in early July to review our interview notes for each candidate, and then decide our next steps. This may require secondary interviews with select candidates.***

***Cam Lockerbie  
Chair***

The Westminster United Church office will be closed Monday July 1<sup>st</sup> for Canada Day.

It is now time to consider signing up to be on PAR (Pre authorized remittance) the holiday season is coming up and we don't attend on a regular basis, but the expenses of the church don't stop so we need your funds all year around. The donation you select comes out of your bank account on the 20th of the month and is put in Westminster's bank account the same day. It is so easy that you will wonder why you didn't do this sooner. The forms are in all the pews. Just fill that in & give us a voided cheque. For more information, contact Donna Scharf at 403-526-1555 or [rdscharf@shaw.ca](mailto:rdscharf@shaw.ca)

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 10:25 am 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***

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<b><i>Elder-in-Charge:</i></b>	Jen Zollner
<b><i>Greeters:</i></b>	Vivian & Wally Bergstreser
<b><i>Scripture Reader:</i></b>	Sharon Clay
<b><i>Minutes for Mission:</i></b>	Wally Bergstreser
<b><i>Coffee Hosts:</i></b>	Anna-Marie Hancock & Linda Kisell
<b><i>Sound :</i></b>	Hayley McKim
<b><i>PowerPoint Operator:</i></b>	Kathy Nielsen
<b><i>Wheelchair Lift Operator:</i></b>	Pat Evans

