



Westminster United Church
Worship Service for September 22nd, 2019
Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Helen Reid

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

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Let us wake up to the presence of God in us and around us.

**Let us attend to the Word of God,
for us and for all people,
communicated through the voices of creation.**

Let us respond with everything we have and are.

**Come let us worship God, our Creator,
with praise and thanksgiving.**

Linda Pennock, Trinity U.C., Newmarket, Ont.

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE: **"Come Touch our Hearts" (MV 12 vss 1&3)**

OPENING PRAYER:

Gracious God, as the birds of the earth sing to the sun, we praise you with our song. As the laws of the earth show balance and correction, we taste your righteousness and justice. As the mother hen shelters her chicks, we lean into your steadfast love. Today, as we worship you, please fill us with your Spirit and speak your word to our very souls. Amen.

Chelsea Masterman, Grace U.C., Edmonton, Alta.

SHARING THE PEACE

✠OPENING HYMN: **"You Servants of God" (VU 342)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Great Creator, we look around us on these fall days

**and we see, smell, hear, and experience evidence of your continuing creation.
In so many ways, our cups run over with your abundance.
But sometimes, our awareness of climate change and habitat destruction drags our spirits down.
We fear that our planet may be doomed, and that there is nothing we can do about it.
Forgive us, O Great Creator, when we forget to pay attention to your voice.
Forgive us, O Great Creator, when we forget to place our trust in you and follow the inspiration of your voice.**

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

Friends, be assured that the God who created the earth in love is still creating in our midst.

There is hope.

There is possibility as we join with God in mending and tending to creation.

We are God's forgiven and beloved people.

This is God's beloved earth.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Phyllis Flemming, Grace U.C., Thornbury, Ont.

STORY TIME

INVITATION TO PRAYER: **"O, Great Spirit" (VU 239 2X)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

"The Lord's Prayer" (Sung)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Your creative spark ignites our being,
our very selves, O God.
Your deep connection, O Spirit,
within and among us all,
creates our relationship though you and in you.
Your self-giving is our heartbeat within, O Christ.
As we receive your Word among us today,
keep us open to your spark, to your relationship,
to your heartbeat, we pray. Amen.

Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont.

Scripture Readings:

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

One: This is the witness of the Hebrew scriptures

All: Thanks be to God

Anthem: **"God is Always With Me"**

Luke 16:1-13

One: This is the good news of Jesus Christ

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON: **"A Parable With a Twist"**

†HYMN: **"I Heard the Voice of Jesus" (VU 626)**

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **"KIDZONE"**

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY: **"Just as I Am"**

†DOXOLOGY: **"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" (VU 541)**

†DEDICATION:

**Loving God,
please accept these gifts
that we bring to you.
We give them,
not because you expect it,
but because you have given us so much,
and we want to share with you
and with others in return.
We give them in Jesus' name,
in order to continue his work
in the world. Amen.**

Frances Flook, Emo/Devlin P.C., Emo, Ont.

†A NEW CREED: **(Spoken)**

†CLOSING HYMN: **"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (VU 334)**

†COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION:

As you go into the world, look beneath your feet.

We see God's foundation beneath our feet, a solid ground of being upon which we grow our faith.

As you go into the world, breathe deeply.

We inspire the Spirit's passion and purpose, filling our souls with life and connection.

As you go into the world, measure your heartbeat.

We share Christ's life blood as the pulse of self-giving, bounding from challenge to challenge in love.

Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont.

†SENDING FORTH: **"Travel On, Travel On" (VU 647 Vs 3)**

†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.

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.

Joint Search Committee Update

The Joint Search Committee has been working hard and steady since January. We have conducted a number of interviews including some exceptional candidates. We had a recent highly suitable candidate who was extremely interested in the position. In August we did offer that candidate the position. The candidate initially accepted, but later had to decline our offer.

The Joint Search Committee, therefore, decided to take a much deserved break/hiatus for the rest of August. However, we will reconvene in September to work towards next steps and options in an expedited manner.

The silver lining is that this Joint Search Committee has really gelled well, and we now know how to do the job in an expedited manner, so any further actions should go much quicker and without a hitch. And now ChurchHub works great, so we won't have that issue again moving forward.

*Sincerely,
Cam Lockerbie, Chair
Joint Search Committee*

Drive a Friend to Church

We are fine tuning our Drive a Friend plan. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Pat Marshall or Jennifer in the church office.

Medicine Hat – The City of Medicine Hat’s Heritage Resources Committee, in conjunction with the congregation of Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church, is inviting everyone to attend a plaque unveiling ceremony to mark the historic designation of the church on September 24, 2019 beginning at 4 p.m.

The ceremony will take place near the front entrance of the church at the corner of 5th Avenue and 4th Street SE. Light refreshments, compliments of Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church, will be served in the church hall following the unveiling. Tours of the church will also be available.

PEACE UNITED CHURCH in Irvine is holding a Roast Beef Fall Dinner Silent Auction and Bake Sale on September 29th from 4:30-6:00(Two Sittings). Tickets are \$17.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children. For tickets please call (403) 527-0206

Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church is pleased to present the **Fall Turkey Supper** on October 6, 2019. Adults - \$20.00, Children 10 & under - \$10.00. Tickets and sign-up sheets will be available after worship on Sunday. Tickets are also available from the office. Tickets are limited and will be sold in advance only

The Westminster UCW would like to thank the congregation for their generous support in the appeal for the Bake less Bake Sale in the spring. The UCW will be able to continue supporting some outreach projects this fall. The amount realized was \$1200. Thank You very much.

The September/October Edition of the Upper Room is available on the ramp.

Donations at Coffee Time for during September are allocated to the UCW

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

<i>Elder-in-Charge:</i>	Pat Evans
<i>Greeters:</i>	Linda Kisell & Albina Jackson
<i>Scripture Reader:</i>	Pat Marshall
<i>Minutes for Mission:</i>	Donna Scharf
<i>Coffee Hosts:</i>	Anna Marie Hancock
<i>Sound :</i>	Hayley McKim?
<i>PowerPoint Operator:</i>	Pat Evans
<i>Wheelchair Lift Operator:</i>	Pat Marshall