



Worship Service for March 8th, 2020
Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Lynn McKinnon
Music Director Chris White

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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

EXTINGUISHING OF THE LENTEN CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We come this day hoping to encounter Christ.

We come with burdens and questions that only He can answer.

May we open our hearts to Him.

May our lives be healed and strengthened for service. AMEN.

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS

OPENING PRAYER:

Gracious and glorious Lord, we come, as did Nicodemus, with questions on our hearts and in our lives. We come hoping someone can help us find answers and healing. But we are also hardened with doubts about self, others, and even you. Grant us healing and openness to your spirit that we may be better servants of your Word, your Will, and your Way. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

SHARING THE PEACE:

✠OPENING HYMN: **"Will you Come and Follow Me?" (VU 567)**

SPOILER ALERT:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Lord, we are such stubborn people. We want to know all the answers. We find it hard to place our trust even in your Son. When Jesus proclaims that we can have a new life, we want to know how this is possible. How can we get rid of the old burdens and difficulties and start over again? Wouldn't it be just like

climbing back into the womb to make a fresh start? How we have misunderstood what Jesus has said. New life is possible. We can place our trust in God's healing care. Forgive us, and help us, gracious Lord. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

New life is given to you. You can place your trust in God and follow God's way. God is with you. **AMEN.**

INVITATION TO PRAYER: **"Wonder and Stare" (VU 118)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

"The Lord's Prayer" (Sung VU 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 12:1-4a

One: This is the witness of Israel.

ALL: Thanks be to God for the Word.

Psalm 121

One: This is the witness of the ancient song writers

All: Thanks be to God

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

One: This is the witness of the Church.

All: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM: **"A Poor Wayfaring Stranger" Performed by the Westminster**

READER'S THEATRE: **Close Encounters at the Cross: Nicodemus**

Gospel: **John 3:1-17**

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

ALL: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.

SERMON: **"Would I Lie To You?"**

†HYMN: **"Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights" (VU 108)**

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **"A Tiny Baby"**

LIFE AND WORK:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mv_kcqAcrPg&feature=emb_rel_end

OFFERTORY:

†DOXOLOGY: **For the Gift of Creation" (VU 538)**

†DEDICATION

Generous God, our guide on the journey: as we continue in worship by offering our gifts in response to your goodness, we can't imagine where we would be without you guiding our path – sometimes before us; sometimes besides us; sometimes behind us, nudging us in the direction of the work you have for us. As you have watched over and cared for your creation, so we acknowledge in our giving that you are calling us to do the same. We surrender our treasure, knowing our hearts will follow. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

†A NEW CREED: **(Spoken)**

†CLOSING HYMN: **"Rain Down"**

†COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION:

Lord, as we go from this place, walk with us.

Give us renewed confidence in your will and transform our lives that we may serve you better. AMEN.

†CHORAL AMEN **(VU 969)**

†SENDING FORTH: **"Jesus Christ is Waiting" (VU 117 vs 5)**

Postlude

**Prayers used for this Service Derived From Ministry Matters*

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.

Coming Soon to a Church Near You...

**Westminster United Church Choir will be presenting the Easter Cantata:
"Jesus! The Resurrection of the Messiah"**

Sunday April 5th @10:25am

Monday April 6th @ 7:00pm

Rev. Lynn McKinnon's "drop-in" Office hours will be Monday and Thursday mornings from 9:30am-12:00 pm. Email: Rev.Lynn@westminsteruc.com

Rev. Lynn McKinnon will be holding a "Lent Guided Meditation" on Tuesday evenings at 7pm in the WUC Lounge. These sessions will continue until April 7th.

It is time to renew Broadview Subscriptions! Cost is \$25.00. Please Contact Jody Davison: 403 548-1838

The U.C.W will be hosting "Soup Sunday on March 8th

Easter Egg Buns will be served by the U.C.W on Palm Sunday (April 5th)

The next U.C.W meeting will take place on April 17th at 1:30 at Chinook Village

MEDICINE HAT ECUMENICAL LENTEN WORSHIP 2020

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00PM

March 11 St. John's Presbyterian 504 2nd Street S.E. Rev. Shane Hein

March 18 Fifth Avenue Memorial 476 4th Street S.E. Rev. Oz Lorentzen

March 25 Unity Lutheran 599 - 12th Street N.W. Rev. Lynn McKinnon

April 1 Westminster United 101 6th Street S.E. Rev. Jeff Lackie

Canadian Foodgrains Bank will be hosting a Fundraising banquet at Chinook Village Friday, March 20th. Tickets are \$30.00.

Info: (403) 548-1730

Child Services is requesting donated suitcases, backpacks etc. These items will be given to foster children in need. Donations can be made at the

Provincial Building (across from Dairy Queen) 346-3rd Street. 2nd floor #2013.

The Hat Grannies for Africa will be hosting their annual "Fabric, Yarn and More" Sale on Saturday, March 14, 2020. The sale will take place at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 504 – 2nd Street SE, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Donations at Coffee Time during March are allocated to the UCW.

Please remember to wear your WUC name tags !

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge: Jeanette Zollner

Greeters: Bev Empey & Linda Kisell

Scripture Reader :Marg McCulley

Minutes for Mission: Anna – Marie Hancock

Coffee Hosts: UCW/Soup Sunday

Sound : Hayley McKim

PowerPoint Operator: Kathy Nielsen

Wheelchair Lift Operator: Bob McCaig