

## **September 10th Full Order of Service**

### **Announcement/Life and Work**

**Introit (MV 14) “Where Two or Three Are Gathered”**

### **Opening Prayer (VU 907)**

Let us pray:

Holy God,

You call us together

To reflect on your Word,

And our life in your word.

Be with us now

As we sing together,

That we may hear your voice

And understand your way.

This we pray through

Jesus, the Christ. **Amen.**

### **Procession of Christ Candle**

“Long, long, long ago, before there was anything, before there was a world, before there was light, before there was darkness, there was God: Creator and Source of Life. God moved and God breathed the world into being, and God said, “Let there be

light.” We present this worship candle as a visible reminder of the Creator’s great light and love.”

### **Land Acknowledgement**

“Today as we gather to worship let us remember that we worship God on the historic and unceded territory of nations of Treaty 7. As Christ’s people, let us be people of Love, of Truth, and Reconciliation. May we live with respect on this land, and peace and friendship with its people.”

### **Affirming Vision Statement**

“As a community church that gathers from many smaller communities in the Medicine Hat area, Westminster United Church publicly declares our commitment to creating a space where people are welcome, safe, and encouraged to participate in the life of the church inclusive of: Sexual orientation, gender identity, two spirited people, differing abilities, age, ethnic background, race, marital status, or economic circumstance.

Participation in the life of the church includes leadership, membership, sacraments, marriage, and celebrating milestones of life’s journey.

We celebrate the richness of diversity, and we commit ourselves to openness, growth, education and to influencing the community for social justice.

In our dedication to living our God's word and with God's help, we devote ourselves to proactive learning and inclusion."

### **Lighting of the Affirming Candle**

"Not quite as long but still very long ago, One was born who embodied the light of the Creator in a way that sparked a movement and a new understanding God. We light this rainbow candle as a visible reminder of the radical inclusivity shown to us by Jesus, who calls us to follow him."

### **Lighting of Peace Candle**

"We light the candle of Peace to remind ourselves that Christ is the Prince of Peace. We pray for peace for ourselves and for the world."

## **Call to Worship (VU 930C)**

**God of the heavens and the earth,**

**With joy we praise you,**

**We thank you, we honour you.**

**Because you have made us like yourself,**

**Made us to be creative in your world,**

**We praise you.**

**Because you have freed us through Jesus**

**Freed us to be people of light and love,**

**We thank you.**

**God of heavens and the earth,**

**With joy we praise you,**

**We thank you, we honour you forever. Amen.**

**✠ OPENING HYMN (VU 232) “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”**

## **Prayer of Confession (VU 928A)**

Holy and gracious god,

Gathered as your people responding to your call,

We confess

The self that is not aware of sinning:  
The heart that is too hardened to repent;  
The pride that dares not admit it is wrong:  
The righteousness that knows no fault:  
The callousness that has ceased to care;  
The blindness that can see nothing but its own will.  
God, in your healing love, forgive us;  
Through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER (spoken [vu 959])**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Daniel 2:31-45**

**New International Version**

**<sup>31</sup> “Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. <sup>32</sup> The head of the**

statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. <sup>34</sup> While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. <sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

<sup>36</sup> “This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. <sup>37</sup> Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; <sup>38</sup> in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

<sup>39</sup> “After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. <sup>40</sup> Finally, there will be a

fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. <sup>41</sup> Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. <sup>42</sup> As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. <sup>43</sup> And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

<sup>44</sup> “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. <sup>45</sup> This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

**“The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”**

One: This is the witness of the Israel.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 149 pg 873 refrain “Hallelujah, all creation, Hallelujah everyone!” (From VU 224.)

Sing to God a new song;

**give praise in the assembly of the faithful.**

Let Israel rejoice in its Maker;

**let the children of Zion exult in their Sovereign!**

Let them praise God's name with dancing;

**let them sing God's praise with tambourine and harp! R**

**Hallelujah, all creation, Hallelujah everyone!**

For you, O God, take delight in your people;

**you crown the humble with victory.**

Let the faithful exult in their glory;

**let them sing for joy as they feast. R**

**Hallelujah, all creation, Hallelujah everyone!**



Let God's praise be on their lips,  
    **the two-edged sword in their hands,**  
to bring the nations to justice,  
    **and call to account the peoples,**  
to bind their rulers with fetters,  
    **their great ones with bonds of iron,**  
to execute on them the sentence decreed.  
    **This is the glory of all God's saints! R**

**Hallelujah, all creation, Hallelujah everyone!**

One: This is the witness of the ancient song-writers.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### ***1 Peter 2:9-19***

#### ***New International Version***

***<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of***

***God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.***

***Living Godly Lives in a Pagan Society***

***<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.***

***<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. <sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.***

***<sup>18</sup> Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. <sup>19</sup> For it is commendable if someone bears***

*up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God.*

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.

**SERMON: "The Everlasting Kingdom"**

**✝HYMN: (VU 273) "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"**

**MINUTES FOR MISSION: Providing Tuition Assistance**

**Hamdan wants to become a doctor someday. As the oldest son, this young teenager dreams big amidst the daily struggles that he and his family face.**

**Hamdan's family came to Lebanon several years ago to escape the war in Syria. They can barely afford their monthly rent, food, household expenses, clothing, and medical needs. While his father works in a produce shop, his mother stays**

at home to care for the family's four children and two other family members. This family of eight lives on the father's pay and a small income supplement they receive from the UN.

Like Hamdan, many children in Lebanon are at risk of losing their education because an economic crisis—intensified by the COVID pandemic and the devastating 2020 explosion in Beirut—has plunged their families into poverty. When parents can't pay school tuition, children face an unstable future.

The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) assists Lebanese students and Syrian refugees ages 8–13 with tuition and fees to secure their education and prevent them from becoming a lost generation.

One thing Hamdan's parents don't have to worry about anymore is his education. With tuition assistance provided by MECC to Hamdan and his siblings, they can continue to study until graduation and gain entrance into a university—giving Hamdan a chance to achieve his dream.

Your support through [Mission and Service](#) helps remove barriers for teenagers like Hamdan so they can work toward their dreams. Thank you.

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory (Offering Gathered with Reflection Music)**

**Doxology “We Give You But our Own” (VU 542)**

**Offertory Prayer**

**A NEW CREED (VU 918)**

**✠CLOSING HYMN: (VU 213) “Rejoice, The Lord Is King”**

**✠BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

**✠CHORAL AMEN “Amen!”**

**✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: (VU 958) “Halle, Halle, Halle” (X2)**

**POSTLUDE:**