

## **October 15<sup>th</sup> WUC Order of Service**

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

### **Introit VU 402 "We Are One" vs1**

### **Opening Prayer**

#### **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**

One: We have been invited to a special gathering called church.

**All: To be here we set aside our busy schedules and other commitments.**

One: All are invited here. Together let us worship God, as we gather in the Name of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

### **✠OPENING HYMN VU 315” Holy, Holy, Holy!”**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: God of infinite forgiveness, we implore You this day to forgive those many times in which we have turned our backs on You by turning away from the needs of the voiceless, the hopeless, and the helpless.

**All: We let ourselves get distracted by activities which drain us of energy and enthusiasm.**

One: I invite each of us now to enter into a moment of silence for self-reflection and private confession . . .

One: Spirit, light a fire under us that we may again feel the exciting challenge of being Your people – a people of action. Heal our wounds of indifference and

apathy; bring us together in harmony and joy to serve You and Your creation with peace, justice, and hope.

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: The mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We are set free to live in the renewing power of the Spirit. Therefore, be at peace with God, with yourself, and with one another. And be assured, you are forgiven.

**All: Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER VU 959**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS (Read by Reverend Helen Reid)**

Exodus 32: 1-9; Selected Verses  
Good News Translation

**32** When the people saw that Moses had not come down from the mountain but was staying there a long time, they gathered around Aaron and said to him, "We do not know what has happened to this man Moses, who led us out of Egypt; so make us a god<sup>[a]</sup> to lead us."

<sup>2</sup> Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold earrings which your wives, your sons, and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." <sup>3</sup> So all the people took off their gold earrings and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> He took the earrings, melted them, poured the gold into a mold, and made a gold bull-calf.

The people said, "Israel, this is our god, who led us out of Egypt!"

<sup>5</sup> Then Aaron built an altar in front of the gold bull-calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to honor the LORD.” <sup>6</sup> Early the next morning they brought some animals to burn as sacrifices and others to eat as fellowship offerings.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Hurry and go back down, because your people, whom you led out of Egypt, have sinned and rejected me. <sup>8</sup> They have already left the way that I commanded them to follow; they have made a bull-calf out of melted gold and have worshiped it and offered sacrifices to it. They are saying that this is their god, who led them out of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> I know how stubborn these people are.

One: This is the witness of Israel.

**All: Thanks be to God for the Word.**

## **Epistle**

Philippians 4:1-9

Good News Translation

**4** So then, my friends, how dear you are to me and how I miss you! How happy you make me, and how proud I am of you!—this, dear friends, is how you should stand firm in your life in the Lord.

<sup>2</sup> Euodia and Syntyche, please, I beg you, try to agree as sisters in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> And you too, my faithful partner, I want you to help these women; for they have worked hard with me to spread the gospel, together with Clement and all my other fellow workers, whose names are in God's book of the living.

<sup>4</sup> May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again: rejoice!

<sup>5</sup> Show a gentle attitude toward everyone. The Lord is coming soon. <sup>6</sup> Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking

him with a thankful heart. <sup>7</sup> And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> In conclusion, my friends, fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable. <sup>9</sup> Put into practice what you learned and received from me, both from my words and from my actions. And the God who gives us peace will be with you.

One: This is the witness of the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **ANTHEM "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"**

#### **Gospel:**

Matthew 22:1-14

Good News Translation

**22** Jesus again used parables in talking to the people. <sup>2</sup> "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his servants to tell the invited guests to come to the feast, but they did not want to come. <sup>4</sup> So he sent other servants with this message for the guests: 'My feast is ready now; my steers and prize calves have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!' <sup>5</sup> But the invited guests paid no attention and went about their business: one went to his farm, another to his store, <sup>6</sup> while others grabbed the servants, beat them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was very angry; so he sent his soldiers, who killed those murderers and burned down their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he called his servants and said to them, 'My wedding feast is ready, but the people I invited did not deserve it. <sup>9</sup> Now go to the main streets and invite to the feast as many people as you find.' <sup>10</sup> So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, good and bad alike; and the wedding hall was filled with people.

<sup>11</sup> “The king went in to look at the guests and saw a man who was not wearing wedding clothes. <sup>12</sup> ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ the king asked him. But the man said nothing. <sup>13</sup> Then the king told the servants, ‘Tie him up hand and foot, and throw him outside in the dark. There he will cry and gnash his teeth.’”

<sup>14</sup> And Jesus concluded, “Many are invited, but few are chosen.”

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

**SERMON: “Trust God and do the Work”**

**✠HYMN: VU 273 “The King of Love My Saviour is”**

**MINUTES FOR MISSION: “Ecumenical Church Loan Fund: Anert's Story”** Read by Debi Hoefling”

Fifty-three-year-old Anert Mwenda is a bubbly and cheerful clothing trader in Syokimau, Kenya. Her path from housewife to entrepreneur has been filled with barriers, but with the help of Mission and Service partner Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ECLOF), her business is flourishing.

After recognizing that her personal savings weren't meeting the rising needs of her business, Anert turned to a self-help group set up by ECLOF Kenya. While taking training programs on business and entrepreneurship, her business grew alongside her skillset. Today, her business employs three workers.

When her husband passed away after a long illness, Anert and her five children were faced with tremendous hospital debt. The loan from ECLOF Kenya alleviated some financial strain, while her peers and ECLOF's loan officer provided emotional support to help her process her grief.

Your gifts to [Mission and Service](#) make it possible for partners to walk alongside women like Anert as they work to achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

Anert says, “ECLOF Kenya is a good listening partner who is ready to walk the journey of possibilities and impossibilities with their customers.” ECLOF shares that they feel Anert's commitment, perseverance, and passion have truly made it possible for her to achieve her dreams.

**Invitation to the Offering**

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

**Doxology VU 544 "In Gratitude and Humble Trust"**

**Offertory Prayer**

**A NEW CREED VU 918**

**✠CLOSING HYMN: VU 509 "Here I Am, Lord"**

**✠BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

**✠CHORAL AMEN: "AMEN!"**

**✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: MV 209 "Go Make a Difference" vs.2**

**POSTLUDE:**