

## Revised WUC Order of Service for Remembrance Day Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

✝ You are invited to stand as you are able

### Announcement/Life and Work

✝ Introit VU 402 “We Are One” vs1

### Opening Prayer

One: Almighty God,

**All: Grant that we who gather here today may pay fitting tribute and honour to the memory of those who have died in the service of their country,**

One: May we be so inspired by the spirit of their love and courage that, forgetting all selfish and unworthy motives,

**All: we may live only to your glory and to the service of your people.**

One: May we who desire peace be willing to work for justice.

**All: We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 pf Peace to remind ourselves that Christ is the Prince of Peace. We pray for peace for ourselves and for the world.”

## **Celebrations**

## ✝Call to Worship

One: Today we gather

**All: to pray for a world where no one will learn war anymore.**

One: In memory of the day when the guns once fell silent, we pray for a lasting peace,

**All: a peace that will reign in every heart, every home, in every nation.**

One: On this day of hope, we come before our God

**All: remembering those who gave their lives for love of every good and worthy thing they knew, for love of family, friends and neighbours, for freedom and peace.**

One: Help us, Lord, to envision the world as you would have it be,

**All: And make us channels of your peace in our community, in Jesus' name, Amen.**

## ✝OPENING HYMN MV 1 Let Us Build a House

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God of might and mercy, we acknowledge the violence that lives within us—that which leads to violence between us. We acknowledge those things we've done to increase the suffering of our world, as well as those things we could have done to bring healing but didn't do.

**All: Forgive us, Lord, and renew our courage, our strength, and our purpose to do what is right.**

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: All who bring a penitent heart and a desire for good to the throne of grace, be at peace.

**All: As we pray for peace, may it begin with peace in our hearts, for God and our brothers and sisters. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

One: Wisdom calls from the Scriptures!

**All: May the Word of God enlighten us!**

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS (Read by BJ Maddford)**

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

New Living Translation

<sup>9</sup> Don't you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that we would not be a burden to any of you as we preached God's Good News to you. <sup>10</sup> You yourselves are our witnesses—and so is God—that we were devout and honest and faultless toward all of you believers. <sup>11</sup> And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. <sup>12</sup> We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.

One: This is the witness of the Church.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM:** Praise To the Lord

Matthew 23:1-12

New Living Translation

### **Jesus Criticizes the Religious Leaders**

**23** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>“The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>3</sup> So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach. <sup>4</sup> They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.

<sup>5</sup> “Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>6</sup> And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. <sup>7</sup> They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi.’<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>8</sup> “Don’t let anyone call you ‘Rabbi,’ for you have only one teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters.<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>9</sup> And don’t address anyone here on earth as ‘Father,’ for only God in heaven is your Father. <sup>10</sup> And don’t let anyone call you ‘Teacher,’ for you have only one teacher, the Messiah. <sup>11</sup> The greatest among you must be a servant. <sup>12</sup> But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

OUR REMEMBRANCE

**Prayer of Remembrance**

One: They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.

**All: We will remember them.**

Last Post

Two Minutes of Silence

Reveille

Laying of Memorial Wreath

“In Flanders Fields”

**SERMON:**

✠HYMN: VU 684 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

**MINUTES FOR MISSION “Anti-Racism, Learning, Reflection and Action”(Read by Debi Hoefling)**

From October 10 to December 1, 2023, the 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism program offers daily and weekly opportunities for learning, reflection, and action.

The program, designed to move people through a journey towards becoming anti-racist, offers an opportunity for participants within the

United Church and beyond to engage in learning and develop their faith.

The learnings encourage deep, thought-provoking discussion for both individuals and communities of faith. Written reflections, video workshops, and readings explore internalized racism, systemic racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, and more.

The United Church of Canada has committed to becoming an anti-racist denomination, and this work is an ongoing journey for everyone.

Your Mission and Service gifts support expanding this crucial initiative each year.

40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism materials are available at any time on the United Church website. Live sessions are and shared on YouTube.

### **Invitation to the Offering**

One: In every day, there are opportunities for charity, certainly through gifts of dollars and cents, but also through courageous action, faithful service, and loving devotion. Let us give of ourselves and of God's gracious blessing.

### **Offertory (Offering Gathered with Reflection music)**

✠ **Doxology VU 544**

✠ **Offertory Prayer**

One: Gracious God, bless these gifts and those who've given them. May these be used in the service of peace this world and in the lives of those who cross our paths.

**All: May real and lasting change start now, with us, through us, and with God's blessing. Amen.**

✠ **A NEW CREED (Vu 918)**

**†CLOSING HYMN: VU 651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

**†BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

**†CHORAL AMEN**

**†SENDING FORTH HYMN MV 209 “Go Make a Difference” vs.2**

**POSTLUDE:**