

## **November 12<sup>th</sup> Worship Service**

✝ You are invited to stand as you are able

### **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**

**Leader:** O Lord, our Lord  
there are many places we could go this morning,  
but we desire to meet with you.

**People:** There are many concerns that could drive us away,

**but we bring them to you.**

**Leader:** For you are great and you are good,  
You are worthy of praise and worthy of  
trust.

**People:** You overcome sin and death  
Trounce evil and make all things new

**All:** O, Lord, we turn to you.

**O, Lord, we sing to you!**

**✝ OPENING HYMN (VU 567) Will You Come  
and Follow Me**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Leader:** Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against You  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by seeking lesser treasure  
and being dulled by the darkness.

**People: We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**Leader:** Because of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord; that we may treasure your Son, and walk in your light,

**People: that your kingdom come, and your will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven, through Christ our Lord,**

**All: Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**Leader:** While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's mighty grace in Christ Jesus. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say,  
in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven!

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Luke 16:1-9

New Living Translation

#### **Parable of the Shrewd Manager**

**16** Jesus told this story to his disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs.

One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer's money. <sup>2</sup> So the employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.'

<sup>3</sup> "The manager thought to himself, 'Now what? My boss has fired me. I don't have the strength to dig ditches, and I'm too proud to beg. <sup>4</sup> Ah, I know how to ensure that I'll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.'

<sup>5</sup> "So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe him?' <sup>6</sup> The man replied, 'I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.' So the manager told him, 'Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons. [\[a\]](#)'

<sup>7</sup> "And how much do you owe my employer?' he asked the next man. 'I owe



him 1,000 bushels of wheat,' was the reply. 'Here,' the manager said, 'take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.'<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>8</sup> "The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. <sup>9</sup> Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.'<sup>[c]</sup>

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

**ANTHEM:** "Consider the Lilies"

# **SERMON: “Welcome into Eternal Dwellings”**

## **Matthew 6:19-21**

Matthew 6:19-21

New Living Translation

### **Teaching about Money and Possessions**

<sup>19</sup> “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

## **1Corinthians 3:10-15**

New Living Translation

<sup>10</sup> Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

<sup>12</sup> Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. <sup>13</sup> But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. <sup>14</sup> If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

**✝ HYMN: (VU 667) Jesus, Priceless Treasure**

## **MINUTES FOR MISSION “Compassion for Action”**

There is one thing that will never fail us: compassion.

Acts of compassion, both big and small, give rise to peace. We can't wave a magic wand and bring about world peace, but with every act of compassion we harness the power of love, the same love Jesus lived and died for and that he promised would move mountains.

At a time when it feels like there's a new crisis confronting us each and every day, it's reassuring to know that Mission and Service partners provide real-time relief around the world on a daily basis.

That's why your generosity matters so much.

The food security initiatives, refugee support work, educational programs, and emergency and advocacy efforts your gifts through Mission and Service support aren't just about food, safety, education, and human rights. They are ultimately about compassion, peace, and hope. And in a world where division tears the fabric that binds us together, that's everything.

Jesus put compassion into action every day he lived. He brought hope into every room he walked into. He was literally the calm in the storm. He stretched out his arms in the ultimate sacrifice of love, and the world was never the same.

Every act of compassion contributes to a more peaceful world. Thank you for your generosity through [Mission and Service](#). Your gifts truly do help move mountains.

## **Invitation to the Offering**

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

**†Doxology VU 544**

**†Offertory Prayer**

**†A NEW CREED (Vu 918)**

**†CLOSING HYMN: (VU 365) Jesus Loves Me**

**†BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

**†CHORAL AMEN: AMEN!**

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

**POSTLUDE:**