

February 11th Full Order of Service

Chaplain George Koopmans

Announcement/Life and Work

†Introit “Will You Come and Follow Me”(VU 567 vs 3)

†Opening Prayer

Generous and loving God,

who provides water in the desert,

wine at a wedding, fish when there are no bites,

bread when we are hungry, and answers when

we are confused,

be with us this morning, as you are always.

Blow through us, that we might sense your presence.

Wrestle with us, that we might discern your path.

Love us that we might become who you call us to be.

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

We gather together in worship and praise.

Praise to you, God!

Praise to you for this morning.

Praise to you, God!

Praise to you for the great commission: to make disciples, to baptize, to teach.

Praise to you, God!

Praise to you for always lighting our way.

Praise to you, God!

VOPENING HYMN “Shine, Jesus Shine” (Lyrics on PP)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sometimes,

I think I have all the answers.

Sometimes,

I ignore feelings of unease.

Sometimes,

I forget that you are active in my life, my calling, purpose.

Sometimes,

I don't want to listen, I don't want to act, I don't want to serve.

Forgive us for these times.

Help us to respond to all that we are, all that

**you have made us,
with love, with abundance, with care.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Numbers 14:1-10

The People Rebel

14 Then the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. ² Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. "If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!" they complained. ³ "Why is the LORD taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?" ⁴ Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!"

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground before the whole community of Israel. ⁶ Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, tore their clothing. ⁷ They said to all the people of Israel, “The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! ⁸ And if the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey. ⁹ Do not rebel against the LORD, and don’t be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the LORD is with us! Don’t be afraid of them!”

¹⁰ But the whole community began to talk about stoning Joshua and Caleb. Then the glorious presence of the LORD appeared to all the Israelites at the Tabernacle.^[a]

One: This is the witness of Israel.

All: Thanks be to God for the Word.

Cong. Song: “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”
(VU 104)

1 Corinthians 10:1-2

Lessons from Israel's Idolatry

10 I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground.² In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses.

One: This is the witness of the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "No Turning Back"

HYMN: "This Little Light of Mine" (Lyrics on PP)

MINUTES FOR MISSION "Small Gifts with Big Impact"

In February 2023, just one year ago, earthquakes left people in parts of Türkiye and Syria facing the devastating loss of their loved ones, homes, and communities.

Today, those same people are still facing the ongoing impact of the disaster. On top of difficulties with accessing basic needs and medical care, there remains an economic crisis. The costs of fuel and basic commodities have doubled, and in some cases tripled.

[Mission and Service](#) partner the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) has been providing ongoing help to people living in the aftermath of the earthquakes. A Cash Assistance program has been life-changing for families, especially those who do not have a steady or fixed income.

Even the smallest amount can provide a family with a significant boost. Whether it is making house or rent payments, covering the cost of a medication, or being able to afford groceries, Mission and Service partners are there to provide support.

Your gifts to [Mission and Service](#) extend a loving hand of peace and warmth to those in need as they live through the worst crisis of their lives. Thank you for your generosity.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (Recording of Julia performing “Sweet Hour of Prayer”)

✠DOXOLOGY (VU 537)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A NEW CREED (VU 918)

✠CLOSING ANTHEM: “Behold tis Eventide”

✠BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING

✠CHORAL AMEN (VU 974)

†SENDING FORTH HYMN “Halle, Halle, Halle” (VU 958)

POSTLUDE: