

May 19th

Day of Pentecost

Chaplain George Koopmans

✠ You are invited to stand as you are able

Announcements/Life and Work of the Church

✠ **Introit: (MV 23) “Come O Holy Spirit”**

Opening Prayer

Leader: Holy Spirit, love divine,
glow within this heart of mine.

People: **Kindle every high desire,
purify me with your fire....**

Leader: Holy Spirit, peace divine,
still this restless heart of mine.

People: **Speak to calm this tossing sea,
grant me your tranquility.**

✠ **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: When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

People: Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Leader: They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

People: All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.(Acts 2:1-4)

Leader: Today, Lord, we meet in your presence

People: to celebrate the gift of your Spirit who now lives among us.

Leader: We remember that your Son, Jesus Christ, called Holy Spirit another Counselor whom he would send to us.

Leader: Renew our hearts, move us to faith, lead us in truth, and empower us for obedience.

✠ Opening Hymn: (VU 194) “Filled with the Spirit’s Power”

Prayer of Confession

**Leader: Almighty God,
who sent the promised Holy Spirit
to fill disciples with willing faith:**

**People: We confess that we resist the work of your Spirit among us,
that we are slow to serve you
and reluctant to spread the good news of your love.**

All: God, have mercy on us.

**Leader: Forgive our divisions
and by your Spirit draw us together.**

**People: Create in us a desire to do your will
and be your faithful people
for the sake of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE THE LORD’S PRAYER (VU 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 37:1–14

A Valley of Dry Bones

37 The LORD took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the LORD to a valley filled with bones. ² He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. ³ Then he asked me, “Son of man, can these bones become living people again?”

“O Sovereign LORD,” I replied, “you alone know the answer to that.”

⁴Then he said to me, “Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, ‘Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD! ⁵This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! ⁶I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’”

⁷So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. ⁸Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, “Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.’”

¹⁰So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, ‘We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished.’ ¹²Therefore, prophesy to them and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³When this happens, O my people, you will know that I am the LORD. ¹⁴I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live again and return home to your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done what I said. Yes, the LORD has spoken!’”

One: This is the witness of the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:24–34

²⁴ O LORD, what a variety of things you have made!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ Here is the ocean, vast and wide,
teeming with life of every kind,
both large and small.
²⁶ See the ships sailing along,
and Leviathan,^[a] which you made to play in the sea.
²⁷ They all depend on you
to give them food as they need it.
²⁸ When you supply it, they gather it.
You open your hand to feed them,
and they are richly satisfied.
²⁹ But if you turn away from them, they panic.
When you take away their breath,
they die and turn again to dust.
³⁰ When you give them your breath,^[b] life is created,
and you renew the face of the earth.
³¹ May the glory of the LORD continue forever!
The LORD takes pleasure in all he has made!
³² The earth trembles at his glance;
the mountains smoke at his touch.
³³ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live.
I will praise my God to my last breath!
³⁴ May all my thoughts be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.

One: This is the witness of the ancient song-writers.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: “Spirit of God”

Acts 2:1–21

The Holy Spirit Comes

2 On the day of Pentecost^[a] all the believers were meeting together in one place. **2** Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. **3** Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. **4** And everyone present

was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages,^[b] as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

⁵At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. ⁶When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

⁷They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, ⁸and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! ⁹Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome ¹¹(both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” ¹²They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.

¹³But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, “They’re just drunk, that’s all!”

Peter Preaches to the Crowd

¹⁴Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. ¹⁵These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that. ¹⁶No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷‘In the last days,’ God says,
‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions,
and your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸In those days I will pour out my Spirit
even on my servants—men and women alike—
and they will prophesy.

¹⁹And I will cause wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below—
blood and fire and clouds of smoke.

²⁰The sun will become dark,

and the moon will turn blood red
before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives.
²¹ But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD
will be saved.^[c]

One: This is the witness of the Church.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Can These Dry Bones Live?”

✠HYMN: (VU 382) “Breathe on me, Breath of God”

Minutes for Mission “Connecting for Global Peace and Security” (Read by Sharon Clay)

Project Ploughshares is a Canadian peace research institute with a focus on disarmament efforts and international security. It is also one of our dedicated Mission and Service partners. Project Ploughshares’ important efforts come with many barriers, including discouragement, pushback, and regular exposure to mentally draining work. Duncan Etches started his journey with Project Ploughshares as a supporter. When he saw an opportunity to be The United Church of Canada representative on the management committee, he felt it was time to step into the key role. He comments on how wise and inspirational the whole team is, sharing that “they keep hope in impossible situations.”

Project Ploughshares includes people from diverse backgrounds who are all deeply committed to making the world a better place. Rooted in the ethics of Christianity—peace, reconciliation, and justice—their work connects with people inside and outside faith communities. Members are respected and invited to be part of important conversations.

Your support through [Mission and Service](#) provides encouragement and hope to leaders of Project Ploughshares, a vital connection point for those passionate about global peace and security. Thank you.

Invitation to the Offering Offertory

✠Doxology (VU 538) “For the Gift of Creation “

†**Offertory Prayer**

†**A NEW CREED (VU 918)**

†**CLOSING HYMN: (VU 205) “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”**

†**BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

†**CHORAL AMEN (VU 969)**

†**SENDING FORTH HYMN (VU 582) “There’s a Spirit in the Air” vss 1&2**

POSTLUDE:

Opening Prayer—from "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine" (Voices United 368),
words Samuel Longfellow 1864

Call to Worship - Calvin Institute of Worship

Prayer of Confession - Scott Aniol