

**June 16<sup>th</sup> Full Order of Service**  
**Worship Leader: Dr. Shane Andrus**

**Announcement/Life and Work**

**Introit (MV 23 vs 1) "Come, O Holy Spirit"**

**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: To all of us, the followers of Jesus Christ: as named by First Peoples, we are here on Turtle Island. In this moment, there is an unexpected grace unfurling.

**All: As light makes its way back into the world, we are invited into new relationship.**

One: That we might walk alongside one another, into summer's light!

One: And together let us worship God, as we gather in the Name of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

**✠ OPENING HYMN "We Walk by Faith" (Lyrics on PP)**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: Great loving Spirit, You travel with us on so many paths. Some trails are straight and easy to navigate, but others are very difficult, windy, and up steep hills. On this journey we have faith, be it as small as the grain of a tiny seed.

**All: We confess that sometimes, when things get tough, we haven't always followed Your teachings or done things in a good way. Sometimes we found it too taxing to sit still and listen to our Elders for the wisdom they bring. At other times, Creator, we just did not show up. We ask for forgiveness when we know we could have done better.**

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

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: We are assured of Creator's unending love for us all. Our traditional teachings offer us assurance, and the promise, that we are Spirit first. We will always be part of creation, and nothing can separate us from the love of God. So, hear again the promise of the Savior's teachings: 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 Debi Hoefling)**

**Old Testament**

**Good News Translation**

**1 Samuel 15: 34-16:13**

<sup>34</sup> Then Samuel went to Ramah, and King Saul went home to Gibeah. <sup>35</sup> As long as Samuel lived, he never again saw the king; but he grieved over him. The LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king of Israel.

**16** The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you go on grieving over Saul? I have rejected him as king of Israel. But now get some olive oil and go to Bethlehem, to a man named Jesse, because I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

<sup>2</sup> “How can I do that?” Samuel asked. “If Saul hears about it, he will kill me!”

The LORD answered, “Take a calf with you and say that you are there to offer a sacrifice to the LORD. <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will tell you what to do. You will anoint as king the man I tell you to.”

<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD told him to do and went to Bethlehem, where the city leaders came trembling to meet him and asked, “Is this a peaceful visit, seer?”

<sup>5</sup> “Yes,” he answered. “I have come to offer a sacrifice to the LORD. Purify yourselves and come with me.” He also told Jesse and his sons to purify themselves, and he invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel saw Jesse's son Eliab and said to himself, “This man standing here in the LORD's presence is surely the one he has chosen.” <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to him, “Pay no attention to how tall and handsome he is, because I do not judge as people judge. They look at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart.”

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called his son Abinadab and brought him to Samuel. But Samuel said, “No, the LORD hasn't chosen him

either.”<sup>9</sup> Jesse then brought Shammah. “No, the LORD hasn't chosen him either,” Samuel said.<sup>10</sup> In this way Jesse brought seven of his sons to Samuel. And Samuel said to him, “No, the LORD hasn't chosen any of these.”<sup>11</sup> Then he asked him, “Do you have any more sons?”

Jesse answered, “There is still the youngest, but he is out taking care of the sheep.”

“Tell him to come here,” Samuel said. “We won't offer the sacrifice until he comes.”<sup>12</sup> So Jesse sent for him. He was a handsome, healthy young man, and his eyes sparkled. The LORD said to Samuel, “This is the one—anoint him!”<sup>13</sup> Samuel took the olive oil and anointed David in front of his brothers. Immediately the spirit of the LORD took control of David and was with him from that day on.

One: This is the witness of Israel.

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

## **Epistle**

### **2 Corinthians 5: 6-10**

#### **Good News Translation**

<sup>6</sup> So we are always full of courage. We know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord's home. <sup>7</sup> For our life is a matter of faith, not of sight. <sup>8</sup> We are full of courage and would much prefer to leave our home in the body and be at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> More than anything else,

however, we want to please him, whether in our home here or there. <sup>10</sup> For all of us must appear before Christ, to be judged by him. We will each receive what we deserve, according to everything we have done, good or bad, in our bodily life.

One: This is the witness of the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Anthem: "Be Still My Soul"

**Gospel**

**Mark 4: 26-29; 30-32**

**Good News Translation**

<sup>26</sup> Jesus went on to say, "The Kingdom of God is like this. A man scatters seed in his field. <sup>27</sup> He sleeps at night, is up and about during the day, and all the while the seeds are sprouting and growing. Yet he does not know how it happens. <sup>28</sup> The soil itself makes the plants grow and bear fruit; first the tender stalk appears, then the head, and finally the head full of grain. <sup>29</sup> When the grain is ripe, the man starts cutting it with his sickle, because harvest time has come.

<sup>30</sup> "What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like?" asked Jesus. "What parable shall we use to explain it? <sup>31</sup> It is like this. A man takes a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world, and plants it in the ground. <sup>32</sup> After a while it grows up and becomes the biggest of all plants. It puts out such large branches that the birds come and make their nests in its shade."

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

**SERMON: “Resiliency through Faith”**

**✝HYMN: (VU 337) “Blessed Assurance”**

**MINUTES FOR MISSION “Rainbow Camp is Welcoming” (Read by Sharon Clay)**

Rainbow Camp® in northern Ontario has welcomed young people of all sexual identities since 2012. From the beginning, Mission and Service has supported Welcome Friend Association, which runs the camp.

“Initially, we wanted to bridge the local LGBTQ community with area churches. We started the association, and then we launched the camp. We had no idea what we were doing at the time. Only one person on the board had camp experience, but we knew that young people would benefit,” says Chris Southin, one of the camp’s co-founders.

Rainbow Camp® now serves up to 50 youth each week for four weeks, with expansion plans in the works.

Above all, Rainbow Camp® provides campers with a safe space to be who they are without judgment. “I’ll never forget our first year of camp,” says Harry Stewart, also a co-founder. “It was the second full day. A camper told us his mom had found a dress in his closet. He lied to her and said that it belonged to his girlfriend. He had brought the dress to camp and said he would like to wear it. High heels and sand don’t mix!” he explains,



laughing, “But the warmth, love, and compassion that the camper received from everyone at camp was amazing.” Southin and Stewart want the camp experience to be memorable, fun, soul-searching, and supportive. “We don’t want any camper to feel afraid to be who they are. I think that’s why so many now call it their home.” This important work was recognized with a Governor General’s award in 2021. Your generosity through [Mission and Service](#) supports safe, welcoming spaces like Rainbow Camp®. Thank you!

***UPDATE (May 29, 2024):** Thank you for your ongoing support for queer youth. We have just learned that Rainbow Camp, which is operated by a third-party organization, has been paused until the 2025 camping season.*

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY (Offering Gathered with Reflection Music)**

### **DOXOLOGY (VU 538)**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

### **A NEW CREED (VU 918)**

### **✠CLOSING HYMN: (VU 533) “When in Our Music God is Glorified”**

**✠BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

**✠CHORAL AMEN (VU 969)**

**✠SENDING FORTH HYMN (VU 582) “There’s a Spirit in the Air”**

**POSTLUDE:**