

June 23rd Full Order of Service

Worship Leader: Dr. Shane Andrus

5th Sunday After Pentecost; UCC: Celebration of Pride

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: We believe that every person is worthy of love, imbued with inherent worth and dignity.

All: We are called to live in God's love. In the pride celebrations of June, we join with hundreds of other congregations in living out the teachings of Jesus Christ.

One: As our example of God's love on earth, we follow Jesus Christ, in unity and peace with all.

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

✠ OPENING HYMN "Jesus Lover of My Soul" (VU 669)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: While we believe that every person is worthy of love, imbued with inherent worth and dignity, too often we have fallen short of embodying this principle.

All: We acknowledge that in our words and deeds we have sometimes communicated to others that they do not matter.

One: We have not always proclaimed, and lived out, God's love for all. At times we have held hatreds and stereotypes in our hearts. At other times we have put up barriers to unity and acceptance. For the things we have done, and failed to do, we ask God's forgiveness.

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 hear again the promise of the Savior's teachings: be 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 Anna Marie Hancock)

Job 38:1-10

Good News Translation

The Lord Answers Job

38 Then out of the storm the LORD spoke to Job.

² Who are you to question my wisdom
with your ignorant, empty words?

³ Now stand up straight
and answer the questions I ask you.

⁴ Were you there when I made the world?
If you know so much, tell me about it.

⁵ Who decided how large it would be?
Who stretched the measuring line over it?
Do you know all the answers?

⁶ What holds up the pillars that support the earth?
Who laid the cornerstone of the world?

⁷ In the dawn of that day the stars sang together,
and the heavenly beings shouted for joy.

⁸ Who closed the gates to hold back the sea
when it burst from the womb of the earth?

⁹ It was I who covered the sea with clouds
and wrapped it in darkness.

¹⁰ I marked a boundary for the sea
and kept it behind bolted gates.”

One: This is the witness of Israel.

All: Thanks be to God for the Word.

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Good News Translation

6 In our work together with God, then, we beg you who have received God's grace not to let it be wasted. ² Hear what God says:

“When the time came for me to show you favor,
I heard you;
when the day arrived for me to save you,
I helped you.”

Listen! This is the hour to receive God's favor; today is the day to be saved!

³ We do not want anyone to find fault with our work, so we try not to put obstacles in anyone's way. ⁴ Instead, in everything we do we show that we are God's servants by patiently enduring troubles, hardships, and difficulties. ⁵ We have been beaten, jailed, and mobbed; we have been overworked and have gone without sleep or food. ⁶ By our purity, knowledge, patience, and kindness we have shown ourselves to be God's servants—by the Holy Spirit, by our true love, ⁷ by our message of truth, and by the power of God. We have righteousness as our weapon, both to attack and to defend ourselves. ⁸ We are honored and disgraced; we are insulted and praised. We are treated as liars, yet we speak the truth; ⁹ as unknown, yet we are known by all; as though we were dead, but, as you see, we live on. Although punished, we are not killed; ¹⁰ although saddened, we are always glad; we seem poor, but we

make many people rich; we seem to have nothing, yet we really possess everything.

¹¹ Dear friends in Corinth! We have spoken frankly to you; we have opened our hearts wide. ¹² It is not we who have closed our hearts to you; it is you who have closed your hearts to us. ¹³ I speak now as though you were my children: show us the same feelings that we have for you. Open your hearts wide!

One: This is the witness of the Church.

All: Thanks be to God for the Word.

ANTHEM: "Master the Tempest is Rising"

Mark 4:35-41

Good News Translation

Jesus Calms a Storm

³⁵ On the evening of that same day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." ³⁶ So they left the crowd; the disciples got into the boat in which Jesus was already sitting, and they took him with them. Other boats were there too. ³⁷ Suddenly a strong wind blew up, and the waves began to spill over into the boat, so that it was about to fill with water. ³⁸ Jesus was in the back of the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The disciples woke him up and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?"

³⁹ Jesus stood up and commanded the wind, "Be quiet!" and he said to the waves, "Be still!" The wind died down, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Why are you frightened? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹ But they were terribly afraid and began to say to one another, “Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.

SERMON: “Resiliency in a Relationship”

✠HYMN: (VU 602) “Blessed be the Ties That Bind”

MINUTES FOR MISSION “An Act of Generosity”(Read by Melanie Rattai)

Those who work in the United Church’s Philanthropy Unit have the privilege of hearing the stories of generous supporters. Each story shared is inspiring, but this note included in a cheque sent by Rock Lake Pastoral Charge in Manitoba is especially delightful:

“Please find enclosed our cheque for \$125.00. One of our member’s great-grandchildren rolled loose coins they found around the house. There was 1 roll of loonies, 6 rolls of quarters, 6 rolls of dimes, and 5 rolls of nickels. The three children ages 12, 9, and 7 were told if they rolled the coins, they could use the money however they wanted. They decided very quickly that they wanted to give it to children/people of Ukraine. They brought the money to Rock Lake Pastoral Charge and asked to have the money sent through The United Church of Canada for Emergency Response—Ukraine. They wanted it to go through the church because their great-grandmother loved the church.

“The children could have gone and bought a toy or chocolate bar but they thought about it and decided to give it to help the people of Ukraine. They were so proud when they came into the office. It was a big heavy bag of coins they carried for seven or eight blocks to get here.

They were really pleased to present it,” says office administrator Linda Sharpe.

This story represents thoughtful, intentional giving at its finest. Every gift given is a treasure. Every gift given tells a story about generosity. Thank you for [supporting the work we do together](#) as a United Church. May the story we tell in our giving and receiving bring us ever more near the heart of God.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (Offering Gathered with Reflection Music)

DOXOLOGY (VU 538)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A NEW CREED (VU 918)

✠CLOSING HYMN: “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken” (Lyrics on PP)

✠BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING

✠CHORAL AMEN (VU 969)

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN “There’s a Spirit in the Air” (VU 582 vss 1&5)

POSTLUDE: