

June 2nd, 2024

Rev. Kristy Reimers-Loader

✝ 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

Gracious God, from the busyness of our days,
we pause to seek your wisdom and the joy of your presence.
Magnificent are your ways, and gracious is your will.
May our lives be lived in response to your freely given love.

✝ **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

The work of the Creator is visible.

Let us respond with praise.

The example of Jesus' love for all people is apparent.

Let us respond with obedience.

The wind of the Spirit is blowing.

Let us respond by yielding to its leading.

The word of God is calling.

Let us worship in spirit and in truth. Amen.

✠ Opening Hymn: (VU 371) “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

Prayer of Confession

In truth, we do not know how to pray as we ought,
but the Holy Spirit understands our deepest needs
and leads us to repentance and confession.

Spirit of holiness,

we confess that we are a sinful people.

In thought, word, and deed,

we quench the fire of your love

and dissipate the power of your presence.

You long to restore us to wholeness,

but we reject you as we nurse our selfish attitudes.

You nurture unity, but we sow discord.

You come to make our lives better,

but we stubbornly go our own way.

You seek for all to live in peace,

but we pursue division.

We dishonor your good intentions for us.

Forgive us, Lord.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Wisdom calls from the Scriptures!
May the Word of God enlighten us!

Scripture Readings (Read by Gail Thompson)

DEUTERONOMY 5:12-15

¹² “Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. ¹³ You have six days each week for your ordinary work, ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the LORD your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your oxen and donkeys and other livestock, and any foreigners living among you. All your male and female servants must rest as you do. ¹⁵ Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt, but the LORD your God brought you out with his strong hand and powerful arm. That is why the LORD your God has commanded you to rest on the Sabbath day.

One: This is the witness of Israel.

ALL: Thanks be to God for the Word.

PSALM 139:1-5, 12-17

¹ O LORD, you have examined my heart
and know everything about me.

² You know when I sit down or stand up.
You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.

³ You see me when I travel
and when I rest at home.
You know everything I do.

⁴ You know what I am going to say
even before I say it, LORD.

⁵ You go before me and follow me.
You place your hand of blessing on my head.

¹² but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.
To you the night shines as bright as day.
Darkness and light are the same to you.

¹³ You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body
and knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

¹⁵ You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

¹⁶ You saw me before I was born.

Every day of my life was recorded in your book.
Every moment was laid out
before a single day had passed.
¹⁷ How precious are your thoughts about me,^[a] O God.
They cannot be numbered!

One: This is the witness of the ancient song-writers.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: "Open Prayer"

Gospel: MARK 2:23 3:6

One sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath." Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to

see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

ALL: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.

SERMON

✠HYMN: (VU 509) "Here I Am, Lord"

Minutes for Mission "Learning by God's Love" (Read by Sharon Clay)

Queer Kid Bible Camp is a unique and affirming space that has emerged to provide a supportive environment for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth within the framework of spirituality. Started by Mission and Service partner Silver Spire United

Church in St. Catharines, Ontario, Queer Kid Bible Camp blends teachings of God’s love with messages of inclusivity. Queer individuals have often been marginalized or excluded in spiritual experiences, which can make them feel isolated and alienated. Queer Kid Bible Camp aims to challenge these negative experiences by fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance in a spiritual context. The camp offers a place for young 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals to explore and reconcile their faith with their identity. Through theological and spiritual discussions, youth can openly ask questions without feeling uncertain about their safety.

The benefits of Queer Kid Bible Camp extend beyond its immediate impact on individual campers. The camp experience sparks conversation with parents and guardians who want to connect and understand their children better. As young participants gain confidence and self-acceptance, they become advocates for change within their own communities. The Rev. Karen Orlandi of Silver Spire United Church has seen a wonderful ripple effect, noting that she’s seen “healing for queer adults as they see queer kids openly embracing their identity.”

Your support through [Mission and Service](#) provides the queer community with opportunities to thrive in safe environments as they learn about God’s love. Thank you.

Invitation to the Offering

The rain falls on both the good and the wicked,
**the guilty and the just share in the Lord's bounty,
and the sun shines on the rich and the poor alike.**

Let us be inspired by God's great generosity
and share what we have with love for all those who live in
need.

Offertory

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

✠Offertory Prayer

Loving God,
**let this, our offering, be for a blessing in this world
and our gifts of service be ever acceptable in your sight.
Amen.**

✠A NEW CREED (VU 918)

✠CLOSING HYMN: (MV 144) "Like A Healing Stream"

✠BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING

✠CHORAL AMEN (VU 969)

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

POSTLUDE: