

June 30th Full Order of Service
Worship Leader: Marg McCulley

Announcement/Life and Work

Introit "O, Canada!"

Opening Prayer
(Mark 5)

Loving God, we are yours. We come as we are, with our cares and concerns.

We long to touch you and find healing in your embrace.

Strengthen our faith and heal our brokenness, that we may worship you with joy. 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 (Psalm 130)

Wait for the Lord, like those who hope in God's mercy.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Watch for God, like those who eagerly await the morning.

We watch for God, whose power redeems us.

Hear God's hopeful word, like those who long for pardon.

Sing praise to God and rejoice in God's love.

✠ OPENING HYMN "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (VU 326)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Psalm 130 Mark 5)

Out of the depths of despair, we cry to you, O God.

We are lost in a world of pain and suffering.

When we put our trust in weapons of war, we find no peace.

When we put our faith in our own resources, we feel the ache of our true needs.

When we put our hope in the health of our bodies, we suffer pain and find no healing.

Come to us, O God. Forgive our doubts and fears.

Heal our brokenness, that we may rejoice in your steadfast love. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(Psalm 130)

There is forgiveness and healing with God.

God's steadfast love has the power to redeem our brokenness and make us whole.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(2 Corinthians 8)

Loving God, let your word speak to our hearts.

Come and restore us to life.

Comfort our longing hearts.

By our acts and words,

teach us to share your word into the world.

By your word, transform us into your holy people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Samuel:1, 17-27

¹⁷ David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Jonathan. ¹⁸ (He ordered that The Song of the Bow^[a] be taught to the people of Judah; it is written in the Book of Jashar.) He said:

¹⁹ Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places!
How the mighty have fallen!

²⁰ Tell it not in Gath,
proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon;
or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice,
the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult.

²¹ You mountains of Gilboa,
let there be no dew or rain upon you,
nor bounteous fields!^[b]

For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
the shield of Saul, anointed with oil no more.

²² From the blood of the slain,
from the fat of the mighty,
the bow of Jonathan did not turn back,
nor the sword of Saul return empty.

²³ Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!
In life and in death they were not divided;
they were swifter than eagles,
they were stronger than lions.

²⁴ O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
who clothed you with crimson, in luxury,
who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

²⁵ How the mighty have fallen
in the midst of the battle!

Jonathan lies slain upon your high places.

²⁶ I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
greatly beloved were you to me;
your love to me was wonderful,
passing the love of women.

²⁷ How the mighty have fallen,
and the weapons of war perished!

One: This is the witness of Israel.

All: Thanks be to God for the Word.

Psalm 130 V.U. pp 853

Out of the depths I cry to you, my hope is in your promise true.

Out of the depths have I called to you.

O God, hear my cry!

Let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.

If you should keep account of what is done amiss,

O God, who could stand?

**But there is forgiveness with you,
therefore we will honour you. R**

Out of the depths I cry to you, my hope is in your promise true.

I wait for you, God;
my soul waits, and in your word is my hope.

**My soul waits for God
more than the watchers long for morning,
more than the watchers long for morning.**

O Israel, wait in hope,
for with God there is love unfailing.

**With God is great power to redeem,
to redeem you, Israel, from all your sins. R**

Out of the depths I cry to you, my hope is in your promise true.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Mark 5: 21-43

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

²¹ When Jesus had crossed again in the boat^[a] to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³ and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' ²⁴ So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and

touched his cloak, ²⁸ for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' ²⁹ Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' ³¹ And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' ³² He looked all round to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

³⁵ While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' ³⁶ But overhearing ^[b] what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' ³⁷ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.

ANTHEM: “I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

SERMON:

✠HYMN: “Once in Royal David’s City” (VU 62)

MINUTES FOR MISSION “Life Changing Arts Programs for Children”(Read by Sharon Clay)

For hundreds of children living in Córdoba, Colombia, arts programs supported through your [Mission and Service](#) gifts teach children about their rights, give them an opportunity to express themselves, and promote peace-making as well as gender justice.

“Providing workshops for children that teach them about their rights empowers them to think critically about themselves and their country. Through media, art, music, and theatre, they learn about important social issues, human rights, and gender equality,” says the Latin American Center for Popular Communication (CEPALC).

Children are the most vulnerable group in Colombia. Eighty-four percent of violent acts in Colombia are committed against children.

Two and a half million children living there work to sustain their families. Many are forced into dangerous labour. That’s why CEPALC designs programs in sectors hardest hit by poverty and violence.

"I told my mom that we had seen some works of Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Flora Tristan. I remember that they taught us that we must defend the rights of us women. What I like, in general, is that they taught us that we must make peace,” says Amelie, an eight-year-old girl who lives in Bogotá and workshop participant. “Thanks to CEPALC workshops, I’ll be a writer, and I will write things so that children will promote and defend peace, following Jesus’ examples. I will defend and promote our rights in my stories so that nobody can disrespect us or the rights that we have. When I am an adult, I won’t be doing violence against anybody.”

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

(2 Corinthians 8)

Paul challenged the church at Corinth to recognize their abundance, that they might share with those in need.

God calls us to give out of our bounty, that all might have enough to live on without fear.

With eager hearts, let us joyfully give out of our abundance.

OFFERTORY (Offering Gathered with Reflection Music)

DOXOLOGY (VU 538)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

(2 Corinthians 8)

Gracious God, we thank you for the gifts you give us for our lives and for the many blessings you have bestowed upon this community. We thank you for our faith, for our knowledge of you, and for the assurance of your love. May these offerings be a blessing to those in need. Amen.

A NEW CREED (VU 918)

✠CLOSING HYMN: "I Have Called You by Your Name"(MV 161)

✠BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING

(Mark 5)

Christ's touch has healed you. God's love has restored you.
The Spirit goes with you. Go in peace to share the joy of God's love.

✠CHORAL AMEN (VU 969)

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN "There's a Spirit in the Air" (VU 582 vss 1,2, 4&5)

POSTLUDE:

Prayers for this morning were found in Ministry Matters. (adapted)