

Westminster United Church
August 11, 2024

✝ You are invited to stand as you are able

Announcements/Life and Work of the Church

✝ **Passing the Peace of Christ**

✝ **Introit: “Be Still and Know That I am God” (MV77)**

✝ **Procession of Christ Candle**

Land Acknowledgement

Affirming Statement

Lighting of the Affirming Candle

Lighting of Peace Candle

✝ **Call to Worship**

One: Let us bless God at all times;

All: We will praise God’s holy name.

One: Let us look to God, and be radiant;

All: For God has delivered us from all our fears.

One: Jesus has promised whoever comes to him will never be hungry, those who believe in him will never thirst.

All: Let us taste the Bread of Life in scripture and song as we worship God!

✝ **Opening Hymn: Gather Us In (Lyrics in PP)**

Prayer of Adoration & Confession

One: Living, giving God, you are the source of all good things.

Your love reaches wider than the expanding universe,
and your kindness embraces the tiny sparrow.

All: In Christ, you offer us the Bread of Life

to sustain us day by day.

One: Through the Holy Spirit, you are present in every situation, our daily tasks and demanding challenges.

All: And so we gather to offer you our love and loyalty, heart, body, mind, and soul, our living, giving God.

One: Living, forgiving God, in Christ you promise us new life.

All: Yet we often cling to bitter disappointments; anger can hold us hostage for years.

One: We say one thing to someone's face and something else behind their back.

All: Forgive us. Free us from old habits and resentments, and renew us to live according to your mercy. Amen

Words of Assurance

Prayers of the People

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS (Read by Marilyn Taylor)

Hebrew Scriptures: 1 Kings 19:4-8

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' ⁵ Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' ⁶ He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷ The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' ⁸ He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

One: This is the witness of Israel.

All: Thanks be to God for the Word.

Psalm 130: VU 852

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Solo: "I am the Bread of Life"

Gospel Reading: John 6:45-51

John 6:45-51

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.

SERMON

✠HYMN: "O Jesus, Joy of Joying Hearts" (VU 472)

Minutes for Mission (Read by Debi Hoefling)

“Minority Youth Forum: The Power of Bringing Youth Together

Ashley Keeping was one of two United Church young adults selected to attend the Minority Youth Forum in Japan, hosted by the Center for Minority Issues and Mission.

Ashley writes:

“Just like Miyako residents, I live on an island and can relate to their everyday lives on their island, as it was small and humble just like here in Newfoundland. There was one prominent difference. The majority of the residents are seeking peace from their own government, something we don’t have to worry about here in Canada. God called upon me to see how the people of Miyako Island are living, and to share with everyone their struggle for peace.

“The Minority Youth Forum program brought together young adults from Canada, Japan, and Taiwan. The Youth Forum experience showed me how powerful it is to bring youth together to share our culture, to share our faith, and to share our stories. To be able to have discussions with youth from other cultures about how we can change the world gives me so much hope for our future.

“This trip filled my heart with joy, hope, and love for the wonderful people that I can now forever call friends. It also taught me that you need to find, keep, and treasure peace, as well as pursue it for the rest of your time, and that I will do. Thank you, Miyako, for everything you taught me.”

The Youth Forum is an ecumenical initiative of churches in Japan, supported by The United Church of Canada and Mission and Service. Your generosity through [Mission and Service](#) helps programs like this one that inspire peace and learning. Thank you.

Invitation to the Offering

✠Doxology: (VU 581 vs 1&2)

✠Offerory Prayer

One: Lord Jesus, we bring our gifts to you, knowing that you have given yourself for us.

All: Bless these gifts. Make them a source of your abundant love in the lives we touch through mission and ministry in your name. Amen.

✠A NEW CREED (VU 918)

✠Closing Hymn: “Holy Manna” (VU 581)

✠BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING

✠CHORAL AMEN (VU 969)

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: (VU 646) “We Are Marching”

POSTLUDE: