

**Westminster United Church**  
**August 18th, 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)**

✝ **Opening Prayer Page 930 B (Voices United)**

Leader: Praise and thanks to you, O God,  
for all you have done for us.

**People: We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation,  
for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life,  
and for the mystery of love.**

Leader: We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,  
and for loving care  
which surrounds us on every side.

**People: We thank you for the delight we find  
in finishing well our daily tasks,  
and for helping us find comfort in you,  
even in failure or distress.**

Leader: Above all, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ;  
for the truth of his word and the example of his life;  
for his faithfulness, his dying, his rising to life again,  
by which we, too, are raised to life anew.

**People: Grant us the gift of your Spirit,  
that we may know Christ, and make him known;  
and through him, at all times and in all places,  
may give thanks to you in all things. 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 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 (Hebrews 10:24,25)**

Leader: Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,

**People: Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as we see the Day approaching.**

### **✠ Opening Hymn: “There’s a Spirit in the Air” (VU 582)**

### **Prayer Confession (VU 928)**

Holy and gracious God,  
gathered as your people responding to your call,  
we confess

the self that is not aware of sinning;  
the heart that is too hardened to repent;  
the pride that dares not admit it is wrong;  
the righteousness that knows no fault;  
the callousness that has ceased to care;  
the blindness that can see nothing but its own will.

God, in your healing love, forgive us;  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

**Prayers of the People**  
**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS (Read by Chris White)**

**Hebrew Scriptures: Deuteronomy 15:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards your needy neighbour. <sup>8</sup> You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. <sup>9</sup> Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, 'The seventh year, the year of remission, is near', and therefore view your needy neighbour with hostility and give nothing; your neighbour might cry to the LORD against you, and you would incur guilt. <sup>10</sup> Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. <sup>11</sup> Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.'

One: This is the witness of Israel.

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

**Psalm 111 (VU 833)**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.**

I will thank you, God, with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in their assembly.

**Great are your works, O God,  
studied by all who delight in them.**

Honour and majesty are your work;  
your righteousness endures forever.

**You have won renown for your wonders;  
you are gracious and full of compassion. R**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

You give food to those who fear you;  
you keep your covenant always in mind.

**You have shown your power in action,  
giving your people the heritage of nations.**

The works of your hands are faithful and just;  
all your precepts trustworthy.

**They stand fast forever and ever;  
grounded in justice and truth.**

You sent redemption to your people;  
**you decreed your covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is your name.**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom;  
**those who practise it have good understanding.  
May your praise endure forever. R**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**New Testament Reading: James 2:14-26**

## **Faith without Works Is Dead**

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill’, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup> So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. <sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith without works is barren? <sup>21</sup> Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. <sup>23</sup> Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness’, and he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? <sup>26</sup> For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

**SERMON "Faith and Works Go Together!"**

**✠HYMN: “Seek Ye First” (VU 356)**

**Minutes for Mission (Read by Marilyn Taylor)**

**“Nothing can Hold Us Back”**

Audacious Hope, the national youth and young adult event, brought together over 450 energetic young people and passionate youth leaders July 3-6, 2024, for an unforgettable experience at Brock University in St. Catharines, ON. Through the combined efforts of The United Church of Canada Rendezvous team and The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Uplift team, this landmark event was the first-ever collaborative youth event by the two denominations.

Each day included inspiring and vibrant worship led by the incredible Adele Halliday and Mitchell Anderson. Attendees were captivated by a lineup of phenomenal speakers and workshop leaders, including Moderator the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne.

Your generosity through [Mission and Service](#) helps continue programs and workshops that encourage youth in their faith. Thank you.

More [videos from Audacious Hope](#) are available on The United Church of Canada YouTube channel.

## **Invitation to the Offering**

**✝Doxology: (VU 581 vs 1&2)**

**✝Offertory Prayer**

**✝A NEW CREED (VU 918)**

**✝Closing Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, we Adore Thee" (VU 232)**

**✝BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

**✝CHORAL AMEN (VU 969)**

**✝SENDING FORTH HYMN: "We Are Marching" Vs. 2 Lyrics on PP**

**POSTLUDE:**