

August 4th

Full Order of Service

Worship Leader: Marg McCulley

Announcement/Life and Work

Passing the Peace of Christ (Ephesians 4)

Lead lives worthy of the calling to which you have been called. Share together signs of humility and gentleness—signs of love and grace. Be for one another the very presence of God in this room. Be the very peace of Christ as we greet our neighbors.

Introit (MV 77) “Be Still And Know That I Am God”

Opening Prayer (Ephesians 4)

God of unity and peace, bind us together as we come now to worship.

Strengthen the ties that make us your family.

Grant us the grace to recognize our gifts and our place in this body.

Guide us to hear your calling as you speak to our lives.

Encourage us to bravely burst forth as pastors and teachers, prophets and healers,

evangelists and leaders. Dwell in our very hearts, that we may serve in humility—

braided with strength and gentleness, intertwined with passion. Build us up in love, that we may grow in our knowledge and our

love of you.

Speak your truth to our lives, that we may lead lives worthy of your calling. 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."

Celebrations

Call to Worship (Ephesians 4)

With patience and love, we come as one family.

We are one body of Christ, united in God.

Come! Speak of truth, truth told in love.
We gather to listen, and to share our stories.
We are God's children, parts of Christ's purpose.
**We rejoice in our gifts, and we thank God
for this grace.**
Come! Now is the time to worship.

**✠ OPENING HYMN (VU 710) "Shall We Gather at the River"
In loving memory of Ron Chalifoux**

Prayer of Confession (Psalm 51)

**Have mercy on us, O God of love and grace.
Wash away the thoughts that bind us to sin
and erase those actions that lead us away from you.
Teach us your wisdom and put a new spirit
of truth and love and righteousness within us.
Fill us with the joy you offer through the grace of Jesus Christ.
Grant us clean hearts and willing minds, that we may walk in
your ways
and rejoice in your truth. Strengthen us with loving plans and
righteous deeds,
that we may offer your justice and mercy to a world in need.
Amen.**

Words of Assurance (Ephesians 4, John 6)

Know, dear friends, that we are knit together by the very bonds
of Christ's love for us.

As the living water, Christ washes us clean and makes us a new creation.

As our bread of life, Christ nurtures and sustains us.

Because we believe, we need never hunger or thirst for mercy.

Forgiveness is ours, both now and forevermore. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU 959)

Prayer of Illumination

God of wisdom, as we hear the Word today please send your Holy Spirit to give us a fresh understanding. Inspire us to respond with renewed commitment to follow in Christ's way.
Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS (Read by Margaret Laing)

Old Testament

2 Samuel 11:26–12:13a

²⁶ When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. ²⁷ When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

Nathan Condemns David

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD, **12** ¹ and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to

him, 'There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had very many flocks and herds; ³but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.' ⁵Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, 'As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; ⁶he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.'

⁷Nathan said to David, 'You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; ⁸I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. ¹¹Thus says the LORD: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house;

and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. ¹² For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.' ¹³ David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the LORD.' Nathan said to David, 'Now the LORD has put away your sin; you shall not die.'

One: This is the witness of Israel.

All: Thanks be to God for the Word.

Psalm 51:1-12

Psalm 51

Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence

- and blameless when you pass judgement.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;^[a]
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right^[b] spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing^[c] spirit.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: "You'll Never Walk Alone"

Gospel

John 6:24-35

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' ²⁶ Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' ²⁸ Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' ²⁹ Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' ³⁰ So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?' ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ³² Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which^[a] comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' ³⁴ They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

³⁵ Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.

SERMON:

✠HYMN: (MV 18) “Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary”

MINUTES FOR MISSION (Read by Sharon Clay)

“Building Community Through an Afterschool Program”

“I’m going to sleep here!” Amarah, age 6, threatens from under the table. Along with her sisters, she hides from her family at the Tomken Grove Afterschool Program’s pickup time. This is a common occurrence because every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., the children feel that two hours together is not enough.

Through the passion of Westminster United Church in Mississauga, ON, the Tomken Grove Afterschool Program aims to encourage community among local children. The program creates a recreational space outside of school where neighbourhood kids can spend time together in an electronics-free environment.

Some form of physical activity is always scheduled: dance battles, obstacle courses, hula-hooping, spending time outdoors, and more. Snacks such as fresh fruits and yogurt keep the kids healthy and energized, and everyone is involved in cleanup responsibilities for snack and outdoor time, which encourages independence and innovation.

Your gifts through [Mission and Service](#) help programs like this as they encourage community and connection. Thank you.

Invitation to the Offering (Ephesians 4)

Pastor or prophet, teacher or nurse, poor man or rich woman, each of us is called to build up the body of Christ. Our job is unfinished until each of us has come to maturity in the full stature of Christ Jesus. Bring now your gifts, given to us by the grace of God.

OFFERTORY (Offering Gathered with Reflection Music)

DOXOLOGY (VU 538)

Offering Prayer (Ephesians 4, John 6)

God of miraculous grace, transform our gifts into the work of ministry. Transform our lives into your presence in the world. Through these gifts, may we grow in the knowledge of Christ and be strengthened in the unity of faith.

Transform these gifts into the bread of life so that in our giving others may be fed. Make these gifts the waters that spring up into eternal life, so that in our giving, others may be nurtured and strengthened as children of God. In your loving and nurturing name, we pray. Amen.

A NEW CREED (VU 918)

✠ **CLOSING HYMN: (VU 660) "How Firm A Foundation"**

✠ Commissioning

Lead lives worthy of God's call.

We will embrace one another in love and grace.

Act with patience, humility, and gentleness.

We will live together in unity and peace.

Speak the truth in love, building a church of love.

In Christ, we will follow God's lead in all that we do.

Strengthen this body of Christ, working together as one.

We will build a world of love, joined together with Christ.

Benediction (Ephesians 4)

Go forth to lead lives worthy of Christ's call.

Joined together as one, we are strengthened to share our gifts with the world.

Make every effort to maintain this unity.

Knit together by Christ, we are ready to serve!

✠ CHORAL AMEN (VU 969)

✠ **SENDING FORTH HYMN (VU 481)** "Sent Forth by God's Blessing "

POSTLUDE:

You are invited to a Celebration!

Joyce Condon's 100th Birthday

Come and Go, Cake, tea/coffee

**Saturday August 10th 2:30pm to 4:30pm. River Ridge Seniors Village,
4 River Ridge Drive N.W.**