

## **Westminster United Church**

### **September 22nd, 2024**

✝ You are invited to stand as you are able

### **Announcements/Life and Work of the Church**

✝ **Passing the Peace of Christ**

✝ **Introit: “Come Let Us Sing” (VU 222 vs.3)**

✝ **Opening Prayer**

✝ **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

One: From sunrise to sunset, let us praise God's holy name.

**All: With the wisdom of the aged and the energy of the young, let us praise God's holy Name.**

One: Let us praise the Lord with peaceful hearts! And together let us worship God, as we gather in the Name of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

✠ **Opening Hymn: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (VU 288, Verses 1, 2 & 3)**

## Prayer of Confession

One: God of all peace, creation proclaims Your peace – the mountains stand firm in Your steadfastness; the fields, ripe with harvest, declare Your abundant care. Birds soaring high remind us of the freedom Your peace brings; even the smallest ant shows the quiet strength of Your perseverance.

**All: Yet we confess that our lives do not always reflect the peace You offer. Our actions, our words, and even our thoughts can stir discord and unrest, in ourselves, in our communities, and in Your creation.**

One: Forgive us, Lord, when we fail to seek peace, when we choose conflict over reconciliation, and when our hearts resist Your call to be peacemakers.

One: And I invite each of us now to enter into a moment of silence

for self-reflection and private confession . . .

### **Words of Assurance**

One: We pray that our work and relationships embody Your compassion and peace.

So may we praise You, O God, not only in this moment of worship, but in every moment of our lives, as we follow Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, our Lord and Friend.

And we hear again the promise of the Savior's teachings: be at peace with God, with yourself, and with one another. And be assured, you are forgiven.

**All: Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

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

##### **Isaiah 30:15**

##### **Good News Translation**

<sup>15</sup> The Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says to the people, "Come back and quietly trust in me. Then you will be strong and secure." But you refuse to do it.

One: This is the witness of Israel.

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

### **James 3:13-18**

#### **Good News Translation**

<sup>13</sup> Are there any of you who are wise and understanding? You are to prove it by your good life, by your good deeds performed with humility and wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if in your heart you are jealous, bitter, and selfish, don't sin against the truth by boasting of your wisdom. <sup>15</sup> Such wisdom does not come down from heaven; it belongs to the world, it is unspiritual and demonic. <sup>16</sup> Where there is jealousy and selfishness, there is also disorder and every kind of evil. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is pure first of all; it is also peaceful, gentle, and friendly; it is full of compassion and produces a harvest of good deeds; it is free from prejudice and hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> And goodness is the harvest that is produced from the seeds the peacemakers plant in peace.

One: This is the witness of the Church.

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

### **Mark 9:33-36**

#### **Good News Translation**

<sup>33</sup> They came to Capernaum, and after going indoors Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you arguing about on the road?" <sup>34</sup> But they would not answer him, because on the road they had been arguing among themselves about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> Jesus sat down, called the twelve disciples, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be

first must place himself last of all and be the servant of all.”

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

**Sermon: “A Goal of Positive Mental Health”**

**✝HYMN: “Abide with Me” (VU 436, Verses 1, 2 & 3 only)**

**Minutes for Mission “Inuinnaqtun Language Revival Group” Read by Aly Ledene**

The Inuinnaqtun language is the cultural foundation of the Inuinnaqtun people, who live in the central Canadian Arctic. The word *Inuinnaqtun* literally means “to be like an *Inuinnaq* (a person).” Today, fewer than 600 people can speak Inuinnaqtun fluently, with many having lost the language when they were taken from their communities and sent to residential schools.

Mission and Service partner Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq/Kitikmeot Heritage Society in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, is dedicated to keeping Inuinnaqtun alive. They offer one-on-one language immersion sessions with mentors to inspire reconnection.

Since the initial gathering of the Inikhaliuqatigiit team in 2021, many significant successes have occurred. Over the past year, the team has worked hard together, both in person and online, to create helpful resources for revitalizing the Inuinnaqtun language. They have spent many hours making sure these resources will make a positive impact.

One big success is the development of the Inuinnaqtun Dictionary app, which is newly available for free on Android and Apple. The team has also created a beginner

Inuinnaqtun curriculum called Inuinnaujunga and is working on lessons for more advanced levels. They are also teaming up with linguist Richard Compton from the Université de Québec à Montréal to create a Community Grammar of Inuinnaqtun.

Your compassionate gifts through [Mission and Service](#) are supporting programs that help preserve language and culture.

**Invitation to the Offering**

**†Doxology: (VU 538) “For the Gift of Creation”**

**†Offertory Prayer**

**†A NEW CREED (VU 918)**

**†Closing Hymn: “Now Thank We All Our God” (VU 236, Verses 1, 2 & 3)**

**†BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

**†CHORAL AMEN (VU 971)**

**†SENDING FORTH HYMN: (VU 224 vs 4) “Sing a Happy Hallelujah”**

**POSTLUDE:**