

Westminster United Church  
October 6, 2024  
**World Communion Sunday**

✝ You are invited to stand as you are able

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

**Celebrations**

✝ **Passing the Peace of Christ**

✝ **Introit: “Come Let Us Sing” (VU 222 vs 1)**

✝ **Procession of Christ Candle**

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.” Not quite so long but still very long ago, One was born who embodied the light of the Creator. We present this candle to remind ourselves and to celebrate Christ’s constant presence. May we always seek His guiding light in our lives, as we are called to carry that light into the world.

## **Lighting of the Rainbow Candle**

Jesus taught us to love one another in a way that sparked a movement and a new understanding of 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.”

## **Land Acknowledgement**

Today as we gather to worship let us remember that we worship God on the historic and unceded lands of Treaty 7 and neighbouring treaty 4. Traditional lands of the Metis, Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, Stoney Nakoda and the T'suut'ina as well as the Cree and Ojibwa people. As Christ's people, let us be people of love, 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."

### ✝ **Call to Worship (based on Psalm 8)**

One: O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

**All: Your glory is higher than the heavens.**

One: When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—

the moon and the stars you set in place—

**All: What are mere mortals that you should think about them,**

**human beings that you should care for them?**

One: Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

**All: O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!**

**✠OPENING HYMN: “This is God’s Wondrous World”(VU 296)**

**Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession**

One: Eternal God, as we come to your table today, we recognize that, here, heaven and earth join hands.

**All: Around this holy table, we join with your Church which stretches around the world, and across many generations, to meet you in our midst.**

One: As we remember Jesus this day,

**All: unite us to those who have served you over the centuries, and to all who serve you in so many different situations today.**

One: Most merciful God, you are slow to anger and filled with unfailing love.

**All: Forgive us for turning away from your goodness and compassion.**

One: With delight you created the world: land, air, water, animals and plants.

**All: Forgive us for not tending creation, but misusing it for gain and waste.**

One: You call us to love our neighbour as ourselves.

**All: Forgive us for our apathy, pride and self-centered focus.**

One: Through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, you broke the chains of sin and evil.

**All: Forgive us for trusting in ourselves and the powers of this world.**

One: In raising Jesus from death, you opened the way to eternal life.

**All: Forgive our entitled attitudes and ingratitude.**

One: Through our baptism, you have made us new.

**All: Renew our strength, mind, heart and soul, we pray.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU 959)**

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

One: Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

**All: Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **1 Corinthians 11:17-26**

#### **Abuses at the Lord's Supper**

<sup>17</sup> Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. <sup>18</sup> For, to begin with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you; and to some extent I believe it. <sup>19</sup> Indeed, there have to be factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are genuine. <sup>20</sup> When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. <sup>21</sup> For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. <sup>22</sup> What! Do you not have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!

#### **The Institution of the Lord's Supper**

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given

thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for<sup>[a]</sup> you. Do this in remembrance of me.' <sup>25</sup> In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**One:** This is the witness of the Church.

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

**ANTHEM: "We Remember You"**

**Gospel Reading: Mark 9:30-37**

**Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection**

<sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

**Who Is the Greatest?**

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' <sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they

had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' <sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

**One:** This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

**SERMON:**

✠ Hymn: "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

**Invitation to the Offering**  
**Offertory**

✠ **Doxology "For the Gift of Creation" (VU 538)**

✠ **Offertory Prayer**

One: Loving God, out of the abundance of creation, you have provided for all.



**All: Use our gifts in your healing, reconciling and kingdom work in this congregation, our community, and around the globe. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

Invitation to the table:

One: As bread that was scattered on the hillside, was gathered together and made one. So too, we God's people, scattered throughout the world, are gathered together around the table of the Lord, who makes us one.

**All: Let us break bread together.**

**We welcome one another to the table we share with our lord.**

One: God is with us.

**All: We are not alone**

One: Christ is present here

**All: The Spirit is among us**

One: Let us give thanks to God

**All: We do, in memory and in hope.**

One: It is right and a good and joyful thing... We praise you O God.

**All: We praise you O God.**

One: You created Adam and Eve... We praise you O God

**All: We praise you O God**

One: Yet, even they turned away... We praise you, O God.

**All: We praise you O God.**

One: Jesus came as one of us... we join the angels in their praise:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

One: We gather at this table... that makes us your people:

**All: You have made us a people with many different skin colours, many different languages, many different lifestyles, many different life experiences, many different abilities and limitations, many different ways to respond to your love in our lives.**

One: Today we unite with people of faith on all continents celebrating the simple grandeur of your grace that includes all of us.

**All: Guide us, we pray, so that the ways we live our everyday lives in all the small things we do and say may**

**be transformed to be exceptional ways that your love and grace may be known in all the places of the world.**

One: As we gather at this table, we remember... In this faith and as your people we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

One: Send your Holy Spirit upon us... and to the world through Christ,

**All: with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory be yours God most holy forever and ever. Amen**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Merciful God, you have given us the privilege of eating and drinking with you and one another around this table.

**All: We praise you for including us and all who come in your eternal love. May we be aware of the Risen Christ walking with us this day and always. In Jesus' name we pray Amen.**

**✠CLOSING HYMN: “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”  
(VU 468)**

**✠BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

**✠CHORAL AMEN (VU 971)**

**✠Sending Forth: “Sing a Happy Hallelujah” (VU 222 vs 4)**

**POSTLUDE:**