

## **Westminster United Church**

### **November 10th, 2024**

✝ You are invited to stand as you are able

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH**

##### **Welcome**

Welcome, everyone, to this service of remembrance. We have gathered here with Gratitude to recognize the sacrifices of our Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members who have offered themselves in service to our country. Through world wars and regional conflicts, at home and abroad, they have demonstrated courage, loyalty, integrity, and service to Canada before self. The freedoms we enjoy today would not be possible without them.

And so, on this Sunday before the 11th day of the 11th month, we remember them.

##### **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."

## ✝ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### ✝ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: From east and west, north and south, we gather on this day of remembrance to

Give thanks and praise.

**All: We come to be inspired by the Word of God and honour the sacrifices of**

**those who have committed themselves to service before self.**

One: In times of peace, in times of conflict, and in times of uncertainty,

**All: We remember that we are not alone.**

One: We are the people of God, connected across time and space, from generation to

generation.

**All: We are united by the love of the One who said: "No one has greater love**

**than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."**

One: As we gather to remember, let us sing and pray.

**All: Let us worship God together!**

### **✠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."

### **✠OPENING HYMN: "Battle Hymn of the Republic" Lyrics on PP**

### **✠OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray...God of our past, present, and future, we have come to this place as a people of hope. We hope for a future without war and a world that lives together in peace. In years past, and in the present day, members of our armed forces have put their lives at risk for this hope, with some paying the ultimate cost. May what we do here today strengthen our resolve to work together so that this hope may be fulfilled. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

### **Prayer of Confession**

O God of life and death and life beyond life: we confess our love of quick and simple solutions. We avoid complexity in favour of simple and shallow answers; we prefer slogans to solutions. We are too prone to look back after setting our hand to the plough. We do not want to commit to the long haul.

When we reflect on our history of the things that make for peace and the things that make for war, we confess that we have resorted to violence instead of the hard work of seeking just and fair solutions. At other times, we have been reluctant to hold others to account, and have ignored injustice and even cruelty. Forgive us for our unwise use of our own power.

*(Rev. Dr. Neil Parker, military chaplain at the 4th Canadian Division Training Centre in Meaford, ON)*

### **Words of Assurance**

#### **Hymn: O Canada**

O Canada! Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all of us command.

With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
The True North, strong and free!  
From far and wide  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

(Refrain)

God keep our land glorious and free!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada! Where pines and maples grow.  
Great prairies spread and lordly rivers flow.  
How dear to us thy broad domain,  
From East to Western Sea,  
Though land of hope for all who toil!  
Thou True North, strong and free!

(Refrain)

O Canada! Beneath thy shining skies  
May stalwart sons and gentle maidens rise,  
To keep thee steadfast through the years  
From East to Western sea,  
Our own beloved native land!  
Our True North, strong and free!

(Refrain)

Ruler Supreme, who hearest humble prayer,  
Hold our dominion within thy loving care;  
Help us to find, O God, in thee  
A lasting, rich reward,  
As waiting for the Better Day,  
We ever stand on guard.

(Refrain)

**Last Post: t**

Two minutes of silence, and

Rouse: These events occur in sequence without interruption

**In Flanders Field** (choir)

**Act of Remembrance:** The Act of Remembrance is read

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them. All respond: We will remember them.

Wreaths: Official wreaths are laid

Conclusion:

Responsive reading of Micah 4:3

One: He will judge between many peoples

All: and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.

One: They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.

All: Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore.

**Prayers of the People**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS (Read by Dawn Knowles)**

**Ruth 3:1–5; 4:13–17****Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing-Floor**

**3** Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, ‘My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. **2** Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing-floor. **3** Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing-floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. **4** When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.’ **5** She said to her, ‘All that you tell me I will do.’

Ruth 4:13-17

**The Genealogy of David**

**13** So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. **14** Then the women said to Naomi, ‘Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin;<sup>[a]</sup> and may his name be renowned in Israel! **15** He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.’ **16** Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. **17** The women of the neighbourhood gave him a name, saying, ‘A son has been born to Naomi.’ They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

One: This is the witness of Israel.

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

**Psalm 127 (VU p. 851)**

The hand of God feeds us and answers all our needs

Unless God builds the house,

**its builders have laboured in vain.**

Unless God watches over the city,

**those who keep watch stay awake in vain.**

In vain you rise up early and go late to rest,

eating the bread of anxious toil;

**for those whom God loves are given sleep. R**

The hand of God feeds us and answers all our needs

Truly children are a gift from God,

and offspring a reward from God's hand.

**Like arrows in a warrior's hand,**

**so indeed are the children of one's youth.**

Happy are those who have their quiver full of them;

**they will not be put to shame**

**when they meet their adversaries at the gate. R**

**The hand of God feeds us and answers all our needs**



One: This is the witness of the ancient song writers

**All: Thanks be to God**

### **Hebrews 9:24–28**

<sup>24</sup> For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup> Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; <sup>26</sup> for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgement, <sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

One: This is the witness of the Church.

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

### **Mark 12:38–44**

#### **Jesus Denounces the Scribes**

<sup>38</sup> As he taught, he said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, <sup>39</sup> and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! <sup>40</sup> They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'

## **The Widow's Offering**

<sup>41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

### **SERMON:**

✠ **HYMN: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (VU 602)**

### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

✠ **DOXOLOGY: (VU 538)**

✠ **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

✠ **A NEW CREED (VU 918)**

✠ **Closing Hymn: "When Will People Cease Their Fighting?" (VU 687)**

✠ **BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

✠ **CHORAL AMEN (VU 969)**

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: “Halle, Halle, Halle” (VU 958)

POSTLUDE: