

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER
November 2nd, 2025



Worship Leader: George Koopmans
Music: Cherly Finnie

“We are a faith community building relationships with God, all people, and our world.”

✝ You are invited to stand as you are able

ANNOUNCEMENTS/LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

CELEBRATIONS

INTROIT (VU 661 Vs. 1) ‘Come to My Heart’

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 (Isaiah 40:30-31)**

One: Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

**All: But those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.**

**They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.**

✠ **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 VU 672 'Take Time to Be Holy' (Lyrics on powerpoint)**

✠ OPENING PRAYER

"Heavenly Father, we thank you for gathering us together in your name today. We celebrate this day and the gift of life you have lavished upon us. Open our ears to hear your voice, our minds to receive your wisdom, and our hearts to know your love. Help us to set aside distractions and focus our hearts and minds on you, so that our worship, our singing, and our listening to your Word may all bring you glory. In Jesus' name, we pray, **Amen**".

Prayer of Confession (VU 928 Prayer B)

Gracious God,
as people called to be your presence in the world,
we search our hearts, and ask your forgiveness:
for opportunities not taken,
for care not given,
forgive us, we pray.
For sorrow not shared,
for joy not celebrated,
forgive us, we pray.
For love not offered,
forgiveness not extended,
forgive us, we pray.
For those failings we cannot speak aloud,
forgive us, we pray.

Gracious God,
we seek your healing grace,
and ask forgiveness in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Prayers of the People

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
New International Version

1 The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.

Habakkuk's Complaint

2 How long, LORD, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?

Or cry out to you, "Violence!"
but you do not save?

3 Why do you make me look at injustice?
Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.

4 Therefore the law is paralyzed,
and justice never prevails.

The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted.

I will stand at my watch
and station myself on the ramparts;
I will look to see what he will say to me,
and what answer I am to give to this complaint.^[a]

The LORD's Answer

2 Then the LORD replied:

"Write down the revelation
and make it plain on tablets
so that a herald^[b] may run with it.

3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time;
it speaks of the end
and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it;

it^[c] will certainly come
and will not delay.

⁴ “See, the enemy is puffed up;
his desires are not upright—
but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness^[d]—

One: This is the good news of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to Christ, the living word.

Psalm 119:137-144

New International Version

Ⲱ Tsadhe

¹³⁷ You are righteous, LORD,
and your laws are right.

¹³⁸ The statutes you have laid down are righteous;
they are fully trustworthy.

¹³⁹ My zeal wears me out,
for my enemies ignore your words.

¹⁴⁰ Your promises have been thoroughly tested,
and your servant loves them.

¹⁴¹ Though I am lowly and despised,
I do not forget your precepts.

¹⁴² Your righteousness is everlasting
and your law is true.

¹⁴³ Trouble and distress have come upon me,
but your commands give me delight.

¹⁴⁴ Your statutes are always righteous;
give me understanding that I may live.

One: These are the words of the ancient songwriters.

All: Thanks be to God for the word.

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

New International Version

1 Paul, Silas^[a] and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

² Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

³ We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters,^[b] and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

¹¹ With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. ¹² We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.^[a]

One: This is the witness of the Church.

All: Thanks be to God for the Word.

Luke 19:1-10

New International Version

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

One: This is the good news of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to Christ, the living word.

SERMON: A Small Man with a Big Legacy

✠**HYMN: VU 506** ‘Take My Life and Let It Be’ (lyrics on powerpoint)

MINUTES FOR MISSION “Faith, Farming, and Friendship”

For the first time in human history, more people live in cities than in rural areas, and that shift has brought new challenges, especially in caring for the Earth. In Japan, your Mission and Service gifts support a partner that’s responding with vision and hope: the Asian Rural Institute (ARI).

Founded in 1973 by Rev. Dr. Toshihiro Takami, ARI trains rural leaders from the Global South in servant leadership, sustainable agriculture, and community building. Each year, participants from around the world come together for nine months of hands-on learning, studying, farming, cooking, and cleaning side by side. The farm provides almost all of the food they eat, and the surplus supports their neighbours.

This year, your support through Mission and Service helped purchase a used minibus for ARI and provided scholarships for six participants: Arun from Sri Lanka, Robert from Liberia, Lily from Zambia, Lukogo from Congo, Sarmo from Indonesia, and Bob from Kenya.

They’re learning organic farming methods like composting, natural pest control, and ways to keep soil healthy. As Arun says, “God creates everything in order. If things are in order, then everything will be okay. Everything is connected.”

But the lessons go beyond agriculture. Students also learn about servant leadership, leading by serving others. “Peace is number one,” explains Bob. “Then love.”

For Lily from Zambia, it’s been especially powerful to see so many women in leadership roles. She shares, “It inspired me to show others what is possible.” Life at ARI isn’t easy. Days begin early, with prayer and physical work. Cultural differences, personalities, and misunderstandings do sometimes lead to conflict. Yet these tensions also provide rich opportunities to learn reconciliation, communication, and collective responsibility. Robert said, “It is wonderful to be in

diversity. There are a lot of things I like and don't like. It is a challenge to learn to overcome them. It shifted my perception on how to live, to respect culture and not to offend. It is teaching me how to live." Arun summed up, "It is sacred to live in this environment."

Through your gifts for Mission and Service, participants at ARI experience transformation in their faith, their farming, and their leadership. And when they return home, they bring that transformation with them, helping their communities grow in hope, peace, and sustainability. Thank you.

Thank you for helping seeds of change take root around the world. To learn more about ARI and the participants you support, you can [read the full story online](#).

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

✝ DOXOLOGY: VU 542 Vs. 1 'We Give You But Your Own' (Lyrics on power point)

✝ OFFERTORY PRAYER

✝ A NEW CREED (VU 918)

✝ CLOSING HYMN VU 232 'Joyful, Joyful We Adore You' (Lyrics on powerpoint)

✝ BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING

✝ CHORAL AMEN (VU 967)

✝ SENDING FORTH HYMN (VU 422 Vs. 1) 'God Be With You Till We Meet Again'