



We are the  
Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge  
Knox (Didsbury) Pastoral Charge  
of the United Church of Canada



Sunday October 3, 2021  
World Wide Communion Sunday  
Minister: Rev. Tammy Allan

Music Ministry: Rev. Janice and Barry Beaudry – Olds & Knox  
Cheri Jahnke, Joyce Wicks, and Judy Jackson – Sundre  
Honourary Associate Minister – Rev. Janice Beaudry

**Our mission statements:**

**Olds: A Family of Faith, Spiritually Motivated, Welcoming and Caring**  
**Sundre: Believing, Caring, Sharing**  
**Knox: Caring, Sharing, Believing**

*As we worship we gratefully acknowledge that our churches are all  
on the ancient and traditional lands of The Blackfoot Nation, the  
people of the Treaty 7, and of Metis Region 3.  
May we cherish and care for these lands and the people,  
just as those who came before us have done.*

**Prelude**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

We gather together, in person or through technology, remembering Christ's life and ministry, and the life we are called to live.

**We gather as God's people, searching for ways to live out our faith.**

**We gather to celebrate autumn, and the gift of the seasons.**

As we light the Christ candle let us rejoice in God's gift to us!

**Thanks be to God!**

**Call to Worship**

As we gather for worship, know that we are not alone. Christians around the world gather today to celebrate worldwide communion.

**We come to gather to be immersed in the Holy Mystery that is Holy Love.**

Gather from living rooms, from offices, from backyard decks, from church sanctuaries – from wherever you are, as we commune together this day.

**We gather, some together in one place, some virtually with us, yet all part of the spiritual whole that is a community of faith.**

Let us worship God together.

**Hymn** VU 402 We Are One (vs. 1 & 2)

## **Opening Prayer**

**Loving God, everywhere we turn, you are there, loving your creation, present in our struggles. You have given us hearts that question, and minds that resist the easy answers. Be with us now as we ponder the mysteries of life and the part you call us to play in your amazing world. Amen.**

## **Time with Children**

**Hymn** MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide

## **Scripture**

### **Hebrews 1:1-4 and 2: 5-12**

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.<sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup> Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. <sup>6</sup>But someone has testified somewhere, 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?

<sup>7</sup> You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour,

<sup>8</sup> 'subjecting all things under their feet.'

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, <sup>9</sup>but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying,

'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

### **Mark 10: 2-16**

<sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' <sup>3</sup>He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' <sup>4</sup>They

said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' <sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." <sup>7</sup>"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' <sup>10</sup> Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.'

<sup>13</sup> People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

### **Response to the Scripture Reading**

This is the witness of the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Reflection**

Yep. First Sunday preaching before the new congregation and the lectionary scriptures are some of the most complicated ones of the year. Go figure.

They are complicated. One of the things I do from time to time is challenge myself to preach these tough passages, to do the work of trying to make them make sense for our time and place. Now sometimes, you just have to accept that they weren't meant for our time; but sometimes, if you look close enough, you can find nuggets of wisdom.

So – we encounter these words today – World Wide Communion Sunday – a time when we are encouraged to reflect on our connections with Christians around the globe. The reading from Hebrews – especially the last few verses – services to remind us that we do all share in a relationship through Christ, and through sanctification, through the work of being made holy.

The relationship is as Christian family – in that in this letter from Paul to the people, he speaks of 'brothers and sisters.' So how do we live as the family of God, on this day of reflection on the global family of faith?

I saw it this week – in the many people who wore orange for our countries first ever national day of Truth and Reconciliation, and Orange Shirt Day. I saw it in

the many ways groups and organizations across our province took time to recognize the day, and to learn more about what reconciliation means.

I have seen examples of our denomination living as brothers and sisters in Christ in the stories of the work of our national church's Mission and Service that we hear each week – stories of both global and local mission, to build a better world.

I see it in the partnerships our denomination has with other denominations, and how they work together for the common good in situations of crisis or disaster. In this season of thanksgiving, I am grateful for the World Wide Christian community.

Now...there's our gospel reading for today. At first glance, it almost feels like two distinct pieces – yet there is a link between the piece on divorce and the piece about people bringing children to Jesus. Look through any United Church anywhere. Somewhere you will find that picture of Jesus with children on his lap and sitting at his feet.

The connections between the two sections of that reading – it's about vulnerability, and Jesus re-interpreting the laws of divorce with consideration for the most vulnerable – women and children.

This is, indeed, one of those passages where you really need to look at the context of the writing – political and social context. The Season's of the Spirit Worship resource really helps with that.

As the resource offers:

“The Pharisees' question is literally “Is it permitted.” The correct answer is “Yes.” However, divorce was permitted to the extent that it was often undertaken without much thought. For women who had little social status, divorce was unjust.

Jesus points out that Moses permitted divorce because of “people's hardness of heart.” In other words, we are not the ideals that God intended and hoped for and there are times that relationships simply fail...

We also need to caution against inserting modern understanding of marriage into a time when polygamy was permitted and marriage was first and foremost a business relationship designed for mutual support and raising of children.”

Seasons of the Spirit SeasonsFUSION Season of Creation,  
Pentecost 2, 2021 pg. 70

We do live in a different world – at least here in Canada. It would be remiss to say that there are no places in the world where women are still treated as second class citizens – the current transition of power in Afghanistan is a prime example

of where the rights of women and children has drastically changed – where the clock has been turned back 20 years.

But here, in our context, perhaps we need to move beyond the scope of marriage to consider ALL relationships, and the call to treat all people with justice and equity, especially those who are most vulnerable in our society. For that is the essence of what Jesus was teaching in this gospel lesson.

Remember those words “For it is such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” At the heart of this passage is compassion, and the call to care for those who are most often on the margins of society. In Jesus’ day, that was women and children, and particularly women and children who did not have a male relative to protect them and provide for them, and to give them some level of status and recognition in their world.

Who is that in our day? Sometimes, still it is women and children. We know, even in our time, that too often single mothers are economically and socially challenged. In our day, often the marginalized are those who are differently abled; those who are racialized; those who identify as other than heterosexual.

To quote the writers of the Seasons of the Spirit resources for this week:

“The call to approach God’s world as children can enable us to strive harder in our dealings with others. How might we open ourselves to a more child-like embrace of God’s reign?”

Seasons of the Spirit SeasonsFUSION Season of Creation,  
Pentecost 2, 2021 pg. 70

In my mind, children tend to approach life in a spirit of joy and wonder, with an openness to newness and learning, especially about one another. They tend to have a natural curiosity, born out of that openness to learning, as well as a sense of compassion and caring for those who are vulnerable.

As we move into the week ahead, let us seek ways to be more child-like, in all of relationships. Let us find ways to offer love, and care and compassion, as disciples of the one who came to show us the way. Amen.

**Hymn**      VU 366 Like a Child

### **This Week’s Minute for Mission**

#### **You Are There Every Step of the Way: Jason’s Story**

The Rev. Jason Meyers was ordained a year and a half ago. Since then, what has surprised him most about ministry is his expanding capacity to love.

“I thought that when my kids were born, that was kind of the size my heart would be, but I’ve come to love the church, the people, and the vocation of ministry more deeply than I ever imagined. I’m so thankful that Jesus reached into my life

and invited me on this journey with him,” he says. “The church is alive and vibrant, and it’s worth investing in. The leaders are working hard and are bringing the best of themselves into the ministry, into the church, and into the world.” Your gifts through Mission & Service help train and provide financial support to ministry students and leaders. Thank you for your gifts.

**Offertory Music**     MV   191   What Can I Do?

**Offertory Prayer**

**Gracious God, all that we have comes from you. With thankful hearts, we offer our gifts, that they may bring your realm of peace and justice closer. Bless our offerings, we pray. Amen.**

**WORLD WIDE COMMUNION LITURGY**

*Adapted from a liturgy written by Richard Bott, Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2014, page 56-7. (Richard is the current Moderator of the United Church of Canada)*

As we enter into this celebration, let us remember that this is not the table of Knox United Church, or the United Church of Canada – this is the table of God. And if you are on the other side of a computer screen, at table at home, with bread and cup, in the spirit of communion, you too, are at the table of God, where all are welcome.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

The whole world is in God’s hands.

**Everything that lives and breathes. Everything that simply is. Everything.**

From the farthest spaces, to the inmost places!

**God is with us, and we are with God. Alleluia!**

As people of Christ, gathered at table with our sisters and brothers around the world, to remember whose we are, we shout

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

Let us pray, with all that we have, with all that we are.

**We worship you, God-of-all-Being. Bless this day, bless this time, bless this gathering. Bless this world with your overflowing love. Alleluia! Amen!**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

God is with you,

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts to our God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks and praise you, God of all creation. From before there was a beginning, until after there is an end, you were and are and always will be. All creation is animate – alive in you, and with you, and beside you. For everything that is came into being through you.

In praise and thanksgiving, with leaves that whisper, brooks that babble, coyotes that yip, birds of the air, fish of the sea, the squirmers, and the squigglers, even the stars above...

**We shout Alleluia! We sing Amen!**

With our sisters and brothers around the world, those who profess faith in Christ and those who live other paths, we celebrate Life!

For us who follow the way of Jesus, this is a day we remember all who gather to eat the bread and drink from the cup. With those who call this bread, pa, pain, brød, bukë, çörək, matsoh, psomi – and more!

With those who call this wine, wyn (vayn), vin, verë, geenee, yah-een, krasee – and more!

We come together to remember that we are Christ's people, all around the world. We are Christ's people – no matter what!

**We shout Alleluia! We sing Amen!**

Even in our brokenness, even in sin, you call us back with your love. Through mothers, grandmothers, grandfathers and fathers, through prophets and priests and everyday people, you call us back to your love.

**And through Jesus the Christ, a tiny baby, a teenager, a person like us! Through him, you taught us that there is nothing that can separate us from your love – not even death. Alleluia!**

In celebration for the gift of his life, the gift of his teaching, the gift of his death and resurrection, we sing...

**MV 203 Holy, Holy, Holy**

On the night before he died, Jesus gathered with his followers. He took bread, gave thanks to you, God of all creation, and offered it to those gathered at the table saying,

**Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Each time you eat it, remember me.**

Then he took a cup of wine, and gave thanks to you, God of all love. He offered it to those gathered at the table saying,

**Take this and drink. This is my promise, in my life's blood, given for you. Each time you drink it, remember me.**

So we eat, we drink, and we remember, as we sing...

**MV 204 Memorial Acclamation**

We celebrate that your Holy Spirit is present in this gifts and in us, that they and we can be Christ's gifts to the world. In celebration, we offer the words that Jesus gave to all of his disciples, saying to God, who is like our mother and father,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.**

**MV 205 Great Amen**

**Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

Jesus Christ, the bread of life.

**Amen!**

Jesus Christ, the cup of love.

**Amen!**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Prayer after Communion**

**For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted,  
for the Spirit in which we live, we thank you, God of all love!  
May this burst of flavour be on our lips and in our hearts,  
so we can share your love with the world. Alleluia, Amen.**

**HYMN VU 467 One Bread, One Body**

**Prayers for the Day**

Creator God, we give you thanks for this day, for the beauty of the season, and the joy we find in you. We give thanks for the love of family and friends, and for the communities in which we live, and find support and nurture.

We lift to you, our care and concerns:

For places in our world where injustice and violence and oppression are everyday realities, and

for those who suffer because of that.

For families and personal relationship that are hurt by violence and abuse, and those most vulnerable in that.

For all those places in our world affected by natural disasters – fires, flooding, hurricanes, and for the toll those events take on people and on the environment.

For those who are living with illness, or awaiting test results, for their loved ones and caregivers.

For those who have lost loved ones through brokenness of relationship or through death.

For the on-going stress and strain, fear and conflict that arises out of these times of pandemic, for hope and resolution.

O God of grace, we lift these prayers, and the prayers of our hearts, taking a moment of silent reflection...



Trusting in your goodness, and your never ending presence, in gratitude, we offer these, our prayers. Amen.

**Hymn** VU 402 We Are One (vs. 3 & 4 )

**A Blessing for Today**

Let us go from our places of worship, refreshed and renewed, to serve God in love.

**May the blessing of God go with us, this day and always. Amen.**

**Choral Benediction** MV 224 May the God of Peace

**Postlude**

*Thank you for taking time to be part of the Olds-Sundre and Knox (Didsbury) Pastoral Charges worship experience.*

*Olds and Knox are worshipping together at 9:30 a.m., some people in person at each church, and some participating in worship via live stream. Sundre's worship, for the next few months, is at 1:30, in person, at the church there. We are patiently awaiting upgrades in technology for Sundre, so they can join us in Sunday morning worship. Like many things these days, necessary components are back-ordered.*

*We are continuing to practise careful COVID precautions in all our meeting places, and with recent new rises in case numbers, ask that masks be worn in the building – and especially when singing.*

*The bulletin and sermon will continue to be posted to the websites, for those who are unable to join us or access the livestreaming.*

*Also, we have a Facebook presence at "Olds and Sundre United Churches".*

*Each week, via email, there will be updates and announcements sent to each community of faith. If you'd like to receive those emails, please contact your church office and ask to be included.*

**Questions? Wish to financially support our ministries? Contact information for our churches:**

**Olds United Church**

4810 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Olds AB. T4H 1E4

email [office@oldsunited.ca](mailto:office@oldsunited.ca) website [www.oldsunited.ca](http://www.oldsunited.ca) 403-556-3052

***Sundre United Church***

*Box 614 118 Centre Street North, Sundre AB. T0M 1X0*

*email [sundreuc@telus.net](mailto:sundreuc@telus.net) website [www.sundreunited.ca](http://www.sundreunited.ca) 403-638-4428*

***Knox United Church***

*P.O. Box 57 1406 - 19th Avenue Didsbury, AB, TOM OWO*

*email [knoxdidsbury@shaw.ca](mailto:knoxdidsbury@shaw.ca) website [www.knoxunited.com](http://www.knoxunited.com) 403-335-8373*

***Rev. Tammy's confidential email [minister@oldsunited.ca](mailto:minister@oldsunited.ca)***