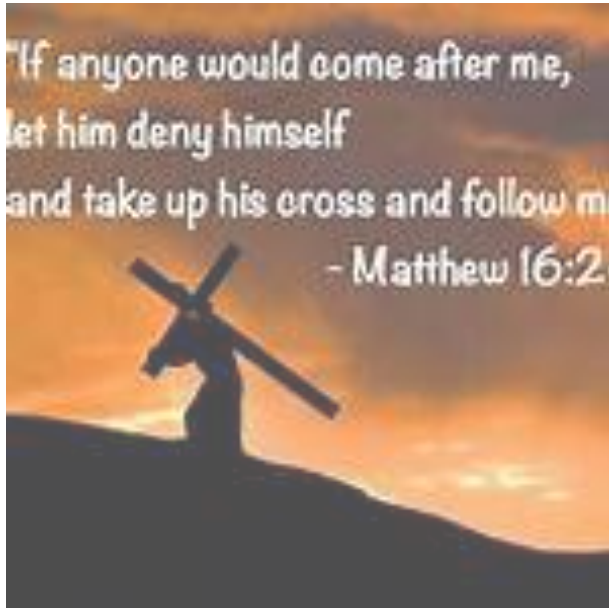


**\*\*CLOSING HYMN:** MV # 213 “Take Up His Song.”

**BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH**



Beaverlodge-Wembley-Hythe Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada

403-10<sup>th</sup> Street, Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0

**Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost, September 3, 2023**

**MINISTER:** Rev. Dr. Dorcas Kanana Muketha

**PIANIST:** Shirley Preuss

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalms 105 VU, PP. 828-829)

Leader: Let us give thanks and tell of all God's wonderful deeds.

**All: We gather this morning with songs of praise in exultation of God's name.**

Leader: Let us be joyful as we seek God's presence.

**All: We gather to make God's name known in all nations.**

Leader: Let us give thanks for God's protection and love.

**All: We gather to make music for the great things God has done to us.**

**\*\*OPENING HYMN:** VU # 264 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise.”

**OPENING PRAYER**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (in Unison)

**God, sometimes we get too busy and think only of ourselves. We refuse to deny ourselves and we rebel against your invocation to take up our cross. Forgive us merciful God!**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Brothers and sisters, let us remember God's wonderful deeds, for the church, our communities of faith, and our families. We can deny ourselves things we so much desire for the sake of the cross. We are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Let us greet one another with words of peace.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you,

**All: And, with you.**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME:**

**\*\*CHILDREN'S HYMN:** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus."

(video)

In scripture God speaks to each of us. Listen for the voice of God.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Matthew 16:21-28

The word of God to us, God's people.

**REFLECTION:** "WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS."

**\*\*HYMN :** VU # 562 "Jesus Calls Us."

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:** Sending People to School—Together:  
Patti Talbot's Work (VIDEO)

### **INVITATION FOR OFFERING**

Friends, God calls us to deny ourselves, for his kingdom's sake.

**\*\*OFFERING HYMN:** MV # 135 "Called by Earth and Sky."

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (in unison)

**God, you call me to deny myself, to carry the cross and to follow your ways. Help me build up things worth your kingdom. As I give this offering, I pray for your wisdom and blessings. Amen!**

### **PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE**

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

Let us join in the Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil:**

**for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**