

## **RALPH CONNOR: INFO FOR RELIEF MUSICIANS – SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE**

– Feb 2024

Thank you for providing music for our Worship service! Most weeks we are in Canmore (parking behind the Church, accessed from Spring Creek Drive); once every 6 weeks or so our service is in Banff (Banff Ave & Buffalo Street, parking off the alley behind the Church). The location will be made clear when you are booked!

Following is a typical worship service at Ralph Connor Memorial United Church, with **musician's parts in bold**. Expect slight variations which the Minister will go over with you. If you need to pick up hymnals for practicing, please contact [office@ralphconnor.ca](mailto:office@ralphconnor.ca) (These will be regular hymnals, not the special Musician's versions, which are not to leave the Church). Sunday worship begins at 10:00 AM so arrival between 9:30-9:45 will allow time to connect with the minister/worship leader.

- **Prelude - ten minutes of prelude music (of your choosing) before the service starts** is nice to set the tone for worship. A church bulletin picked up from the narthex will help you follow along with the service.
  - Words of Welcome – led by Worship leader, as is the Christ Candle lighting
  - **Lighting the Christ Candle and Peace Candle- some quiet music is nice as the candle is carried in** and placed on the chancel table, e.g. once through a short hymn or a choice of your own. (in Banff, the candles are already at the front so no music is needed)
  - Land Acknowledgement, Affirming Ministry Statement, Call to Worship – all led by Minister
  - **Hymn - the hymns will be numbered as MV (More Voices, the ring-bound hymnal) or VU (Voices United, the dark red hymnal). In general, playing through the refrain or last two lines of the hymn serves as an adequate introduction for the congregation to stand up for singing.** Children head out to Kid's Connection in the final verse of this hymn.
  - Time of Silent Preparation
  - **Chant – a quiet single-verse song, often from MV, is played 2-4 times to help move out of silence. The congregation remains seated for the singing of this song.**
  - Scripture Reading(s)
  - Responsive Psalm, rarely used - **If a responsive psalm is planned**, play through the psalm refrain once, then play it again with the congregation singing. Each time the "R" appears in the reading, give the starting pitch, then play the refrain once with congregation singing.
  - Sermon - feel free to sit on a front pew or chair to be more comfortable during the sermon.
  - **Hymn**
  - Passing the Peace. People move around in this time of greeting, with the choir finding their way to the front (on Sundays with an anthem) and children returning from Kids' Connection
- >cont'd on page two

- **Choir Anthem (Sept-June) or Special Music - if arranged in advance**
- Minute for Ministry - our mission in the world
- **The Offering is Received - music (of your choice) is played as the offering is collected.** When the ushers are finished they stand at the back and wait for the “offering hymn” to begin before proceeding up the aisle.
- **Offertory Hymn.** The congregation will sing with this.
- Offertory Prayer
- Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer. **A couple of times a year, a sung Lord’s Prayer is used.**
- Announcements
- **Hymn \*\* (sometimes moves after the blessing, see below)**
- Words of Blessing
- Sometimes the Choral Amen (Amen, Hallelujah VU 974) is used at this point; there is a photocopy version of VU 974 on cardboard sitting on the table beside the piano. \*\* If the choral amen is not used, the Hymn after the announcements usually moves down to this position
- brief pause, then **Postlude – a piece of music (your choice) as the congregation leaves for fellowship in Gordon Hall and/or departs the church. A fairly “up beat” song is appropriate here.**

***+NOTE: On Communion Sundays play quiet music as communion is being served. You are welcome to receive music, or to decline – the choice is yours. If receiving communion, the Musician is served first.***

*Revised Feb 2024*