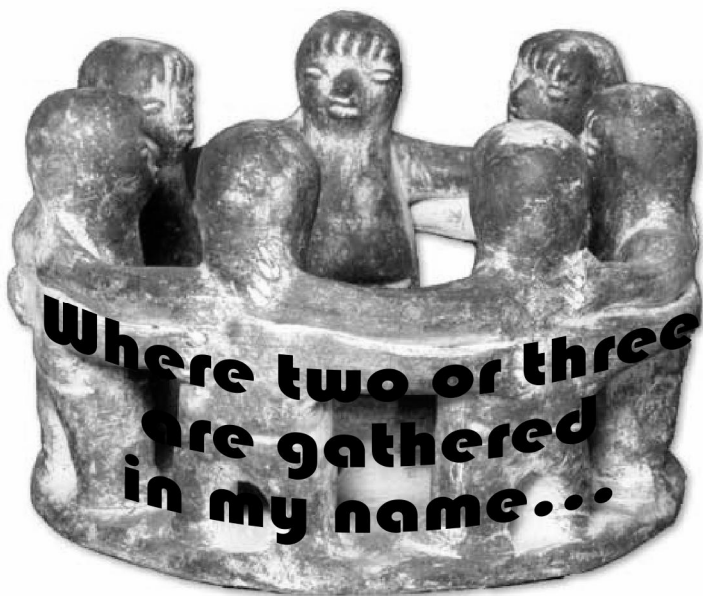




An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2011 September 4

Pentecost 12



Statement of Welcome and Inclusion

In response to God's call, we, the congregation of Robertson-Wesley United Church declare our commitment to opening our hearts and our church family to all people in our community, regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstance. We recognize that many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore, as a compassionate and caring spiritual community we will stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.

Friends in Christ

*The flowers in the sanctuary are placed here by **Bev Martin** in loving memory of her husband, **Len** and her daughter, **Cindy**.*

Prelude: *Partita on Love Divine*, David Lasky Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Greeting

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship *(Leader reads plain text; people sing bold text)*

Hymn: *Where Two or Three Are Gathered* **More Voices 14**

**Where two or three are gathered in my name
I am there, I am there.**

When all of us are gathered in Jesus' name
the Sacred is present – in our hearts, in our words, in our sharing.

**Where two or three are gathered in my name
I am there, I am there.**

When we all come together in the Spirit,
Joy and sorrow is shared and broken hearts are mended.

**Where two or three are gathered in my name
I am there, I am there.**

When we see the Christ in one another
and affirm each one for who they are,
we empower one another to be all we are meant to be.

**Where two or three are gathered in my name
I am there, I am there.**

Coming into God's Presence

God's Holy Word

Scripture Invitation: *Listen, God is Calling* **More Voices 97**

Listen!

**Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy. (Repeat)**

Scripture:

Ross Monson

Exodus 12:1-14 · The passover

This is the witness of Israel.

Thanks be to God, our loving Creator.

Matthew 18:15-20 · Reproving one who sins

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to God for Christ, the Word made flesh.

Romans 13:8-10 · Love for one another

This is the witness of the Church.

Thanks be to God for the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sermon: *Soul Survivor*

Rev. Jim Allan

Hymn: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Voices United 333

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Offering: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, Michael Burkhardt

Offertory Hymn

(*More Voices* 191)

What can I do?

What can I bring?

What can I say?

What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy.

I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love.

I'll do my share. (*Repeat*)

Prayer of Gratitude

The Peace:

We greet the people near us with gestures of peace and words such as...

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Voices United 291

(*We will sing the refrain before the first verse and after the last verse.*)

Benediction:

Go into the world: dance, laugh, sing, and create.

We go with the assurance of your blessing, O God.

Go into the world: risk, explore, discover, and love.

We go with the assurance of your grace, O God.

Go into the world: believe, hope, struggle, and remember.

We go with the assurance of your love, O God.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude: *Moderator, Op. 22*, Niels Gade

*Following worship, all are invited to the Memorial Hall
for fellowship and refreshments.*

Music Notes

United Church musician Bruce Harding has made many contributions to *More Voices*. He was Managing Editor of the book, and you may have seen him at United Church events across the country. Today we use his beautiful Taize-like song – Where Two or Three Are Gathered, which is a verse out of one of our scripture readings for today – Matthew 18:20.

The hymn “Love Divine” is a very popular hymn written by Charles Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodist Church (which was one of the three churches that eventually merged in Canada to create the United Church of Canada). The Love Divine text is paired in our hymnbook with the lovely Welsh tune “Hyfrydol”.

I thought I’d share a little piece of my trip to Denmark with you in the form of the postlude – a wonderful piece of organ music by the Danish composer Gade. His music compositional style was greatly influenced by Mendelssohn.

Worship Thanks

Today’s head ushers are Lynn and Arnold Maki
Scripture Reader: Ross Monson

Minister of Spiritual Development: Rev. Jim Allan
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges
Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen
Office Administrator: Tanya Eckenswiller
Custodian: Brad Campbell

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