



*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

2011 September 18

Pentecost 14

*The circle that we draw today  
is a sign of the covenant promise  
we make with God*



### **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.

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Friends in Christ

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*The flowers in the sanctuary today are in loving memory of my dear friend  
Peggy Skett and are placed here by Clara Dyck*

Prelude: *Fugue in A Major, BWV 536*, J. S. Bach

Greeting

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

*(Leader reads plain text; people read **bold text**)*

This ship is about to sail

**Come aboard and join the crew**

On a journey to eternity

**With the Winds of God filling our sails**

The Living Christ at the helm

**And the Whole People of God giving heart and soul**

To the cruise of a lifetime

**The journey of life.**

Into the heart of the Sacred.

Processional Hymn: *Draw the Circle Wide*

**More Voices 145**

Covenanting

Rev. Karen Bridges

Today we gather in a circle of learning and faith exploration. This circle includes all ages, and places along the faith journey. The circle that we draw today is a sign of the covenant promise we make with God and with one another to live God's way. Today we are promising that we will share our faith with each other, learn from each other and share our God given gifts with each other.

We will do this by following Jesus and his teachings. We will do this by being a community that walks with the spirit of friendship, the spirit of prayer, the spirit of caring, the spirit of justice, the spirit of belonging, the spirit of wisdom and the spirit of joy as we learn, worship, play and pray together.

**We are thankful that we have a safe place to ask questions.**

**We are thankful that we have a space to discuss and share our faith with each other.**

Each of us has something to offer and we pray that together we will find ways to uplift the abundance of gifts present in our midst.

**We pray to you Creator God, to be with us as we reflect, as we work and play, as we sing and pray, study and learn, laugh and**

**cry together. Help us accept our responsibilities as members of this congregation and as followers of the way of Jesus Christ. We ask for the encouragement of your Spirit and the energy of your love, as we live out this covenant together. Amen.**

Introit: *Come, I Pray Thee*, Charles Callahan

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

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God's Holy Word

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Scripture:

Nancy Heule

Exodus 16:2-15 · Bread from heaven

This is the witness of Israel.

**Thanks be to God, our loving Creator.**

Matthew 6:25-33 · The birds of the air

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *Choristers' Prayer*, K. Lee Scott

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Manna Management*

Rev. Jim Allan

Silent Reflection

Hymn: *In the Quiet Curve of Evening*

**Voices United 278**

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

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Grateful Response

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Offering: *Air (Orchestral Suite in D Major)*, J. S. Bach

Offertory Hymn

(*Voices United* 538)

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,**

**and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,**

**we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.**

**May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

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.**

Recessional Hymn: *From The Slave Pens Of The Delta*

**Voices United 690**

## Benediction

Now it is time for mercy.

**It is time to follow the Christ  
who leads us beyond our guilt and slavery.**

It is time to see the earth in a new light,  
the earth that gives us Life.

**It is time for the healing of the nations  
that share the earth.**

It is time for the Body of Christ  
truly to live as people of mercy.

**Amen.**

Postlude: *Praeludium in A Major*, J. S. Bach

Tammy-Jo Mortensen

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

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### Music Notes

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A little bit of Bach for our service today! The Praeludium and Fugue in A Major is not heard in concert very often, but it is a delightful pair. The praeludium is full of toccata-like sweeps and joyful exuberance, in the bright key of A Major and Bach's style of writing in this piece was probably quite influenced by Buxtehude. The fugue is very stately even though it is in a "waltz" tempo. The well-known "Air on the G String" originally from an orchestral suite, has been arranged for many instruments and combinations of instruments. It's often called "on the G string" because the whole melody is playable just on one violin string. It was the first piece of Bach's music to ever be recorded (1902).

The text of the introit is taken from Richard Rolle (ca. 1290-1349). He was a religious writer, Bible translator and hermit. It is written in a ternary form (ABA) and the prayerful text speaks of our desire and longing for a relationship with God.

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### *Worship Thanks*

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Today's ushers are Ross Monson, Janet Hughes and Elsie Coon  
Scripture Reader: Nancy Heule

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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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