



*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

2017 May 7

Sacrament of Communion

Easter 4

Welcome and  
Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, or age. Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore we stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.



---

## Friends in Christ

---

*The flowers today are in loving memory of Dr. J. Douglas Muir, Hazel and Robert Backus and Margaret and George Muir, the gift of Jean Muir-Golden and family.*

Prelude: *The Child Jesus*, Lani Smith

Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Sung Invocation: *Alleluia (Monteiro)*

**More Voices 54**

Embracing Our Spirit

Opening Prayer:

You are indeed holy, God.

**We are so alive when we become present to your presence.**

Our hearts adore you and our lips can find the words:

**You are holy, God!**

Our hearts adore you and we seek out your call to life abundant!

**We will raise our hearts and give you glory in this house of praise.**

Processional Hymn: *Holy, Holy, Holy (Argentina)*

**Voices United 951**

Learnings from Leadership

Ron Soans

---

## God's Holy Word

---

Introit: *Salmo 150*, Ernani Aguiar

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

(Text: Psalm 150, can be found at VU 874.)

Scriptures:

Betty Squair

Acts 13:1-3, 14: 8-18 • Paul and Barnabas in Lystra

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. ... In Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet and had never walked, for he had been crippled from birth. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. And Paul, looking at him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And the man sprang up and began to walk. When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifice. When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, "Friends, why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to follow their own ways; yet he has not left himself without a witness in doing good—giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with

food and your hearts with joy.” Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

This is the witness of the Church

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

Anthem: *Heaven is Singing for Joy*, Pablo Sosa      Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Is your faith Alive or Idle/Idol?*      Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *Behold, How Pleasant (Psalm 133)*      **Voices United 856**

Pastoral Prayers      Rev. Leigh Sinclair

The Lord’s Prayer      (*Voices United* p. 921)

---

*Grateful Response*

---

Minute for Mission      Sylvia Duffus

Offering: *Offertório*, Alberto Nepomuceno

Offertory Hymn:      **Voices United 168 v 4**

**May we, Christ’s body, walk and serve and stand  
with the oppressed in this and every land,  
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,  
restored in Christ to true humanity.**

Prayer of Gratitude

The Peace (*standing*): *We greet the people near us with words such as...*

May the peace of the living Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*All who worship with us today, regardless of age or church membership, are invited and welcome to partake in this sacrament. Gluten-free bread is available on request and the “wine” is non-alcoholic grape juice.*

Christ has risen!

**He has risen indeed!**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Creator of all,

**It is great to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed great, a joy and a delight, to gather in community with friends and strangers to celebrate and worship God. God is the Source of all life, all seasons and all meals. God made you and adores you. Wherever you may be on your journey to claim this identity – beloved child of God – you are welcome at this table. It is not mine, nor Robertson-Wesley’s. It is God’s and Jesus is our host.

**Thanks be to God!**

We thank you God for seasons and cycles, for seed and soil, for all sources of life and growth. We thank you for all the ways you have made yourself known: in evolution's movement and creativity, in cultures and languages by the thousands, in prophets, teachers, sages and sunsets.

We thank you for the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, in whom you came and experienced just how hard and wondrous life is on Earth. Thanks you for the gift of the Holy Spirit, which allows for life to be full of surprises. And so with all you have created, and all you are going to create, along with all the forces in heaven and earth we join to sing your praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy (*sung*): (*More Voices*, p. 203, Kingsfold)

**O holy, holy holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always.**

The resurrected Jesus was seen in the breaking of the bread at the end of a long day. He was seen in the pouring out of a net full of fish after a long night's work, on the beach ready to celebrate. Jesus can be seen in sharing of a meal, when we serve one another.

Let us prepare to meet him again today.

It was on his last night with his friends that he took bread, giving thanks to you God, and he broke it saying: "This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat all of you and when you do this, remember me." It was later that night that he took the cup, and after giving thanks to you oh God, he poured it out saying: "This is my blood, poured out for all in the making of a new covenant: one for the forgiveness of all sins. Take and drink all of you. And when you do this remember me." And so we come to break bread and have our thirst quenched by the Divine Mystery.

Let us sing the story of our faith:

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*): (*More Voices*, p. 204, Kingsfold)

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!  
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!**

Holy Spirit, breath of God, come now and transform these gifts and these people, so that we may be united with Christ and united as one Body, one which is ready to serve your world. May these elements sustain our faith and strengthen our Mission:

to love one another because we have been loved by You!

Here are the gifts of God for the people of God!

**Thanks be to God.**

Great Amen (*sung*):

(*More Voices*, p. 205, Kingsfold)

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Music During Communion: *Prece (Prayer)*, Alberto Nepomuceno

Prayer after Communion:

For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted,  
for the life we have received, we thank you, God.

Grant that what we have done and have been given here may so put  
its mark upon us that it may remain always in our hearts. Grant that  
we may become mature Christian that ours may be the faith which  
issues in action; through Christ our Lord. Amen.<sup>1</sup>

Home Communion Commissioning

Recessional Hymn: *May the God of Hope Go with Us* **Voices United 424**

Commissioning:

Our bodies are fed by Christ,

**we go ready to serve!**

Our spirits are refreshed by the Spirit,

**we go ready to live!**

Our lives are awakened by their Maker,

**we go choosing life and life abundant.**

The Holy Trinity goes with you!

**Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: *Fiesta*, Dennis Janzer

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

---

### Music Notes

---

As we continue this series to celebrate the United Church as a intercultural church, we focus this morning on the music of Central and South America. Even though I have a lot of European and North American organ music in my library, I have very little that is from Central or South America, so this was fun to research! The prelude is based upon a Puerto Rican tune, often used at Christmas.

The Alleluia is a new one this morning – from Brazil, and so is the introit. It's by Brazilian composer Ernani Aguiar (b. 1950). This setting of Psalm 150 is fiery and

---

<sup>1</sup> The Prayer after Communion is from the United Church of Canada's *Service Book*, approved by the 23<sup>rd</sup> General Council, 1969.

joyful - one of his most popular pieces, and was written in 1993. He is currently a professor of music at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, a fellow of the Villa-Lobos Institute, and a member of the Academia Brasileira de Música.

The opening hymn, hymn after the sermon and anthem are all from Argentina. The opening hymn was taught to me by Pablo Sosa (b. 1933), and is also the composer/author of the other two pieces. He has done amazing things for global hymnody, travelling and teaching, learning hymns from others and sharing them, writing in an Argentinian style, including using tango rhythms. He is also a Methodist pastor and an inspiring leader. I love this quote from a piece written by Joan Huyser-Honig on the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship web site: "If you're lucky enough to be led in song by Pablo Sosa, your first impression—unruly white hair, energetic arms, rumpled sweater and pants—might not clue you in to his worldwide reputation. But that doesn't matter to the Argentinean minister and composer. Within the first verse, Sosa will have you where he wants you...breathing deeply, singing your heart out, smiling at people around you. Even if it's not your custom, you may find yourself swaying or moving your feet, dancing almost. Pablo Sosa has a gift for getting congregations to sing. Worship leaders in many cultures and traditions say that Sosa's methods and insights work. You can use them to help your congregation sing and worship more consciously as members of Christ's body." The postlude is by American composer Dennis Janzer written in a Latin style. It is one movement of a several movement work for narrator and organ, intended to introduce audiences (especially children) to the organ.

The other two organ pieces, at the offering and the prayer during communion are by Brazilian composer Alberto Nepomuceno (1864-1920). Although we don't hear much about him, he was a prolific composer, and was a nationalist, writing in Portugese and promoting other composers from Brazil, when it wasn't in fashion. He later went to Rome and Berlin to study and met and married a Norwegian student who was friends with Grieg and subsequently lived in Grieg's house, and Grieg encouraged him to continue writing music that reflected the Brazilian culture. He eventually moved back to Brazil and was a professor at Instituto Nacional de Musica in Rio de Janeiro.

---

### *Cover Image*

---

Cover image: This picture was taken June 18, 2013 at Robertson-Wesley United Church.

---

Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Rev. Leigh Sinclair  
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges  
Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen  
Office Administrator: Tanya Eckenswiller  
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell

---

10209 – 123 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 1N3  
Phone (780) 482-1587 · Fax (780) 482-1580  
mail@rwuc.org · [www.rwuc.org](http://www.rwuc.org)

---

