



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 July 2

Pentecost 4



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstances. 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

Prelude: *Siciliano*, J. S. Bach

Belinda Chaing, organ

Embracing Our Spirit & *O Canada (Voices United 524)*

Prayer of Approach:

Holy One of prayer and promise, we come this day to a refuge,
where all are welcome.

We come this day to a place of praise,
where we can thank you aloud!

We come this day to learn how to serve you,
in our thoughts and actions,

we can rejoice that we have companions on the Way!
Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn: *Spirit, Open My Heart*

More Voices 79

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

God's Holy Word

Solo: *Virgin, tutto amor*, Francesco Durante

Marilee Stephens, soprano

(Text: *Virgin*, all made of love, mother of goodness, pious mother —hark, sweet Mary, the sinner's voice. May their cry move you, may to you come their laments, sorrow, sad words; may you feel pity in your heart. Oh, mother of goodness, all made of love.)

Scriptures:

Bob Klakowich

Ephesians 3: 14-20, 6:18-20 • The gift of prayer

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

This is the witness of the Church.

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

Solo: *There is a Balm in Gilead*, Spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes

Marilee Stephens

Sermon: *Jesus Prays*

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *Take Time to Be Holy*

Voices United 672

Pastoral Prayers

Grateful Response

Offering: *Offertoire*, Theodore Dubois

Offertory Hymn:

More Voices 187

**We give our thanks to God, we give our thanks to God,
we give our thanks to God, we give our thanks to God.**

**We give our prayers to you, We give our prayers to you,
We give our prayers to you, because you prayed for us.**

Prayer of Gratitude

Closing Hymn: *O God of All the Many Lands*¹

Voices United 523

**O God of all the many lands, we lift our hearts in prayer,
for this our land of Canada, a country wide and fair;
for mountain heights and northern lights, for prairie, lake and sea,
for every blessing from your hand bestowed so lavishly.**

**We call to mind the peoples who have lived here from of old,
Whose wisdom and traditions and stories need be told.
Through truth, hope, trust, and justice may a new day be revealed
When all our peoples may be blessed and God's creation healed.**

**We thank you for the sacrifice of venturers of old,
Who dared to cross uncharted seas, whose dreams made others bold,
For valliant souls and pioneers, for all who served their age,
And left for us who follow on a sacred heritage.**

**We thank you that from many lands with varied gifts they came,
To pledge their love and loyalty where scarlet maples flame.
May justice here belong to all, and may our nation play
its rightful role in ushering in the peace for which we pray.**

**May we be worthy of our land and seek its highest good,
Shaping a noble destiny of truest nationhood.
May this fair land, our Canada, your own dominion be;
your people bless abundantly from seas to Arctic sea.**

Commissioning:

“Take time to be holy, let God be your guide”

We shall walk with Jesus, our companion.

“In joy or in sorrow, still follow Holy Wisdom.”

We shall go, our heads held high and, always praying:

¹ Verses 1, 3, 4, 5 from *Voices United*, Verse 2 by Margery Wright.

Thank you for all we have,
and help us serve all we meet.²

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. (Ephesians 3:20)

Forever and ever, Amen.

Postlude: *Psalm XIX*, Benedetto Marcello

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

Music Notes

Thanks to the Marilee Stephens for singing and to Belinda Chiang for playing while Tammy-Jo is on study leave at an organ convention in Montreal this week. The two texts of the pieces that Marilee is sharing work really well for the theme today. The Durante piece is a prayer of supplication to Mary. Durante (1684-1755) was a contemporary of J. S. Bach, and was known for his work as a church musician, primarily a composer of sacred music and teacher in Naples. One of his students was Pergolesi. Balm in Gilead works really well for today as well, for Jesus is the “balm” that is referred to in the text, who when we take our concerns to him in prayer can comfort and heal.

Thank you very much to Margery Wright for contributing the 2nd verse to Voices United 523. This hymn text has no mention of the First Nations. Margery has written a beautiful verse that adds such depth to the hymn. She based one line on the 1986 apology to the First Nations Peoples.

Cover Image

Cover images: Supporting each other in worship at Robertson-Wesley.

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R-W REPORT July 2, 2017

Robertson-Wesley United Church

A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE

Washrooms are located by the elevator.

Baby changing facilities are available in washrooms.

² Quotes from William D. Longstaff's *Take Time to be Holy* (Voices United, 672).

If you wish to use it, a children's activity centre is set up in the Chapel with nursing space in adjacent room (Millson Room).

Activity kits for children are available from the ushers.

Large print bulletins, large print hymnbooks, and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

Please do not leave valuables unattended anywhere in the church.

Next Week

July 9, 2017, 10:30 am

Pentecost 5

Communion

Children & Youth: Children and youth are encouraged to worship with their families today. Activity books are available.

Scripture:

Ephesians 1:2-10, 15-23 Spiritual Blessings in Christ

Sermon: *Jesus Worships*

We worship and engage in communion as a means of connection. Coming together to celebrate and thank God while remembering Jesus in the sacrament of communion, reminds us and refocuses us on the message of the gospel. Through communion we experience forgiveness and grace and we receive redemption. Paul prays that the Ephesians will also receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation? What will we do when we receive all of this?

Music: Claire Rolheiser, soprano; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

After Worship: After worship all are invited to gather in the Memorial Hall for fellowship and refreshments.

Volunteer Opportunities:

The summer can be a challenging time to find volunteers. Please take a look at the many volunteer possibilities and sign up for one or many opportunities.

Scripture Readers: A new list is posted in Memorial Hall. All people are welcome to read on Sunday. This is a popular list, so please sign up for one Sunday only, this is to give other people a fair chance to sign up and participate.

Community Dinner Cook: We are looking for a volunteer cook to prepare the community dinners. A group of volunteers get together to plan and prepare a nutritious meal for the needy in the community. This meal is prepared once a month on the second Saturday of every month of the year. Numbers vary from 125 people to over 200 people for the Christmas meal. This program has been in operation for over 20 years

and is self-sustaining. A trust fund was provided by a wonderful person to look after the costs these meals. We meet new friends and have a lot of fun preparing these meals. If you are interested, you may contact Robertson-Wesley at mail@rwuc.org.

Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM) Service and Lunch July 23: As we have done for many years, R-W volunteers will assist with the Inner City Pastoral Ministry Service and Lunch on Sunday July 23, taking along multiple loaves of sandwiches and goodies. Please sign up to help with this worthwhile outreach project.

Magic Pantry

Responding to the need in our own neighbourhood, R-W provides a free bag lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays between 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm. Recently the lunch has been a can of pasta which everyone really enjoys! The lunch also comes with serviettes, pudding, juice, crackers and cookies. This program is a great way to connect and provide outreach in the community.

Staff

Tammy-Jo is on study leave from July 2 to July 7 at a combined Royal Canadian College of Organists/American Guild of Organists conference in Montreal.

R-W News & Notes

WOMEN'S WEEKEND- SEPTEMBER 15 – 17

Theme: Earth's Weavers: Making Connections

This weekend will include: celebration, creativity, friends, laughter, spiritual practice, time outdoors, and most of all, the time to get to know the women at R-W. Registration forms can be found in the literature racks and on R-W's website. For more information you can email Jill L: jilllambie@shaw.ca or the office by phone or email: mail@rwuc.org.

Deadline to register for the weekend is today! July 2.

FLOWER DONATION DURING THE SUMMER

We invite you to take part in offering flowers to our sanctuary. Anyone can donate flowers to be displayed for Sunday morning worship. Flowers can be donated to celebrate any season or to mark an important day, anniversary or in memory of someone.

To donate: just bring your bouquet on Sunday morning and give it to an usher!

Remember: take it home with you or gift it to someone to take home with them.

At this time: the Church office *can* mark the occasion in the bulletin if you let them know by Wednesday at noon, before the Sunday you choose. The Church office *cannot* receive donations of flowers on your behalf.

With deep gratitude for the ministry of the Flower Group over the years, this is how we will receive flowers during the transition as we explore new ways to continue this ministry.

DO YOU NEED SOME SUMMER READING?

Check out the shelf in the Club Room, and the library downstairs in Room 10. There are terrific books available and it's a simple "check out" system. Books can be borrowed for four weeks.

UPCOMING IMPROVEMENTS AT ROBERTSON-WESLEY

Two projects will be completed at Robertson-Wesley this year, likely by the end of July. Those projects are:

1. Replace the present elevator. No elevator June 5-July 31
2. Upgrade the basement washrooms to make them accessible. (June 22-July 31)

Bear with us during these renovations as the lack of an elevator will inconvenience some people. The east entrance with the ramp will be used by those who can't manage the stairs.

GROCERY CARDS

Everyone buys groceries! Pay for your groceries with grocery cards purchased through Robertson-Wesley United Church and the church will receive between 4% - 8% of the proceeds. Really, we're just asking you to change your method of payment for your groceries – and it's a great way to budget! Gift cards are available in various denominations Safeway, Sobeys, Save On Foods, or Superstore/No Frills. Buy a \$100 gift card and you will get \$100 worth of groceries! We have a limited supply of gift cards available for sale after worship in Memorial Hall.

REV. KAREN BRIDGES GOES ON SABBATICAL

August 1 – October 31, 2017

In The United Church of Canada ministers are eligible to go on a three-month Sabbatical after working in a congregation for 5 years. As this is my 7th year here at Robertson-Wesley, it is time to engage a spiritual practice of Sabbath. The term sabbatical actually is derived from the biblical word Sabbath which serves an ancient human need to build periods of rest and rejuvenation into a lifetime. A sabbatical is simply getting an extended leave from work to pursue a break from one's regular duties.

During the month of August, I will be spending my time reading, and doing some creative dramatic writing which I don't usually have space or energy to do. I hope to have some dramatic pieces to share in worship when I'm back, and perhaps a play for the theatre (I have a play that is 1/3 done, it would be nice to finish it.)

In September I plan to unplug from the world. I will be heading to Botswana and South Africa to go on Safari. I will commune with nature,

while living a very simple life. I'm looking forward to seeing the animals in their own habitat while looking up at the stars at night in all their abundance. I will take lots of pictures, and I will not have my phone with me... (I may have a mild addiction).

Upon returning in October I will spend my time exploring and applying for different grants that the church might be eligible for so that we can continue to grow and explore new ministries here at Robertson-Wesley. A time of Sabbath is really an opportunity to make space for God to move in my life. In order to make space, I will need to let go of a few things that keep me busy, and instead I will also spend my time being present to the simple rituals of life, like a proper cup of tea, reading a book, playing the guitar and singing, a run in the river valley, a round of golf with my father, the preparation of food! (I never have time for this one.) It will be strange to not be around all of you, day in and day out, but know that I will look forward to returning to you all, spiritually full and ready to continue what God is calling us to do.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Mon July 03	Office closed- Statutory Holiday	
Tue July 04	Scripture Reflection Group– Chapel	12:10 pm
Wed July 05	Canterbury Service– offsite	10:30 am
Sat July 08	Community Dinner– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun July 09	Soul OUTing– Chapel	7:00 pm
Tue July 11	Scripture Reflection Group– Chapel	12:10 pm

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Office hours: Tues. – Fri. 8:30 am to noon & 1 pm – 4:30 pm

We wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory and a traditional meeting ground for many Indigenous peoples.