



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 August 6

Pentecost 9



Welcome and Inclusion

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

Prelude: *Cantilena*, Rheinberger

Belinda Chiang, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

In a land far away, and long ago, there was a Queen named Esther.

She wore a disguise of riches and fine dresses.

She was a superhero for her people.

She was wise!

In a land far away, but not so long ago, there was a man who had the skills of a spider. He was called Spiderman.

He wore a disguise of blue and red, and a mask.

He was a superhero named Peter Parker!

He was wise!

Prayer of Approach:

God of heros, Source of wisdom, help us listen anew today to the stories of heros. Infuse us with your wisdom so we too may act for justice and protect the vulnerable.

God of heros, Source of wisdom, thank you for your gifts of superpowers, the fruits of the Spirit! Amen.

Opening Hymn: *I Can Feel You Near Me God*

More Voices 48

Coming Into God's Presence

God's Holy Word

Solo: *Bist du Bei Mir*, J. S. Bach

Melisa Guilbeault, alto

(Text: If you are with me, then I will go gladly unto death and to my rest.

Ah, how pleasing were my end, if your dear hands then shut my faithful eyes!)

Scriptures:

Ted Blezard

Wisdom 7 – read and sung responsively

Voices United

page 891

Esther 4: 1-17 • Esther's decision

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he would not accept them. Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, and Mordecai

told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people. Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days." When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish." Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

Matthew 5: 13-16 • Be Salty Salt!

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for Christ, the word made flesh.

Solo: *Sure on this Shining Night*, Samuel Barber

Melisa Guilbeault, alto

Sermon: *Taking off our Masks, Wisely*

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *Long Before My Journey's Start*

More Voices 63

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Offering Invitation

Offering: *Ave Verum*, Mozart

Belinda Chiang, organ

Offertory Hymn:

Spiderman Theme, words from *Voices United* 540

Grant us God, grace to give

with a spirit large and free

that ourselves and our lives,

may be offered faithfully

Praise be, thanks be to God, Amen.

Prayer of Gratitude

Closing Hymn: *She Comes Sailing on the Wind*

Voices United 380

Commissioning:

Followers of Jesus are we ready to strive to be heroes?

Jesus said: I am the Light!

Esther realized that she had been called into a scary situation just to ensure that God's Light could shine!

We have been called into the world that is scared and weary.

Let us go and ensure that God's Light can be unmasked!!

Thanks be to God for the wisdom to seek out and share the Light of the World! Amen.

Postlude: *Sortie*, Rawsthorne

Belinda Chiang, organ

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

Music Notes

Thanks to Belinda Chiang for playing this morning, and special thanks to Melisa Guilbeault for singing today! The solo from Bach is a very popular one. It may be misattributed to Bach, appearing in his *Anna Magdalena Notebook* in 1725, when it actually might have first appeared in an opera by Gottfried Heinrich Stölzel, which was premiered in 1718. Whoever wrote it, it is an amazingly beautiful song of comfort and love.

Cover Image

Cover images: This picture was taken in our very own Arts Studio, June 2017.

Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Rev. Leigh Sinclair
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges on
Sabbatical till Nov 1
Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen
Office Administrator: Tanya Eckenswiller
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R-W REPORT August 3, 2017
Robertson-Wesley United Church

A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE

Washrooms are located by the elevator.

Baby changing facilities are available in washrooms.

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

August 21, 2017, 10:30 am

Pentecost 10

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

Scripture:

Ruth 1: 12-17

Sermon: *Ruth and Professor X: Super Servants!*

Jesus calls us to become servants to all. This means making choices each day to love others and share what gifts we have; choosing to take care of ourselves so we will be ready when God calls. This is not easy because it means choosing to not "be normal," to not stay "under the radar" and at times to sacrifice our comfort for a greater good. How does Ruth's choosing to stay with Naomi inspire your super strength?

Music: Belinda Chiang, organist; Dushan Bednarsky, viola

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

Thank you: **Many thanks** to those volunteers who assisted with the Inner City Pastoral Mission service and lunch on Sunday July 23. R-W members **Lisa, Jill, Dawn, Donna, Gail, Lorna, Louis, Garnet** and **Lois** spent the morning preparing and serving lunch to over 200 people, as well as taking part in the service, which included indigenous themed smudging and stone ceremonies conducted by Michelle N. the assistant pastor. Thanks also to the many other volunteers who made and donated multi loaves of sandwiches and delicious desserts which were much appreciated.

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.

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.

Operation Friendship- Volunteers help out through summer at the seniors drop-in centre. Operation Friendship Seniors Society is a non-profit society that provides community-based preventative social services to the seniors of Edmonton's inner city. We provide safe, affordable non-institutional housing options. Thank you volunteers for filling up the July slots. Upcoming date in August: **Aug 18.**

Garden Patch & Kid's Church- Grandparents, parents, youth and adults are encouraged to volunteer Sunday mornings on a regular rotational basis. More details are on the sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall. Sign up today!

Staff

Tammy-Jo Mortensen is away on vacation till Aug 16.

Brad Campbell will be on vacation and returns Sept 5.

Rev. Karen Bridges is on sabbatical Aug 31 to Oct 31.

R-W News & Notes

BETWEEN THE AISLES (quarterly newsletter)

Submissions for the **Fall** edition are due **today! August 6, 2017.**

Email submissions to: rwucnews@gmail.com

NEEDED: USED LAPTOPS

Laptops dead or alive for Missions in Mali, West Africa.

David Begin is booked with Ethiopian Airways leaving October 19th.

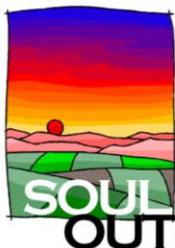
Repairing laptops is cheap in Mali, so even broken screens can be replaced for next to nothing. Hard Drive will be erased.

Please give to David Begin or Rev. Leigh to pass along to him.

SUMMER MUSICIANS

R-W welcomes many solo musicians over the summer months when our choristers and ringers are taking a break. Thanks to our musical volunteers!

SOULOUTING



A safe place where LGBT persons can explore the sacred and connect with one another, this informal service is part worship, part bible study, part sharing circle. It's held in the chapel on the second Sunday of the month at 7 pm.

The next gathering is **Sunday August 13 at 7:00 pm.**

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.

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.

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.

R_W IS ACCEPTING ARTWORK!

Art Sale: November 17, 2017, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

R-W will be holding its annual Art Sale in November and we are accepting art donations.

Art is "in the eyes of the beholder" - so we accept art of everything kind - oils, drawings, wood working, pottery, and jewelry, etc.. .

You will receive a tax receipt for the actual cost of the article at the sale.

If you have any art or wish information, please contact Sheila or Pat at 780-481-0056 or leave a message at the Church Office.

All the money from the Art Sale stays within the church for future community projects and activities.

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.

Over 20 years ago R-W became a distributing food bank depot and has been in continuous operation for over 20 years, providing volunteers to handle the morning phone-in service and distribute the food each Wednesday afternoon to those in need in our area.

In addition, some R-W members work regularly at the main food Bank to sort and organize distribution.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Tue Aug 8	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
Sat Aug 12	Community Dinner– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Aug 13	Soul OUTing– Chapel	7:00 pm
Tue Aug 15	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	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.