



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 August 20

Pentecost 11



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, gender, differing abilities, or ethnicity. 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: *Sheep May Safely Graze*, J. S. Bach, arr. Jim Findlay

Mingmei Xu, violin; Jim Findlay, guitar; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

In a land far away, and long ago, there was a man named Jonah.

God called him and he said “NO WAY.”

God called him again and he said

“FINE but only MY way.”

God worked wonders and Jonah was grumpy.

Jonah is like us – grumpy and called by God anyway!

In a land far away, but not so long ago, there was a man named

James. His friends called him Wolverine and he was grumpy.

His mentor called him to protect the vulnerable.

He said “NO WAY.”

But when the time came, justice worked wonders.

Wolverine is like us – grumpy and still called to serve!

Prayer of Approach:

Source of purpose and direction, help us listen anew today to the stories of heroes. May you work wonders in and around us even when we know nothing about it. May your love shine through us (even if we are grumpy).

God of heroes, Source of purpose and direction, thank you for your power to work through reluctant heroes giving us the fruits of the Spirit! Amen.

Opening Hymn: *I Have Called You by Your Name*

More Voices 161

Coming Into God’s Presence

God’s Holy Word

Scriptures:

Psalms 17 – read and sung responsively
page 739

Voices United

Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-4, 9-10; 4:1-4 • Jonah’s decision

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.” But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. They said: Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.” When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I -slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

This is the witness of Israel.

Thanks be to God our loving Creator.

Sermon: *God Can Use Anti-heroes*

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *Take, O Take Me As I Am (three times)*

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Pastoral Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Offering Invitation

Offering: *Pavane*, Gabriel Fauré

Jim Findlay and Mingmei Xu

Offertory Hymn: *Spiderman* Theme, words adapted *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: *Will You Come and Follow Me*

Voices United 567

Commissioning:

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

Jesus said: I am the Truth!

Jonah teaches us that God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Let us go and proclaim this Truth, this amazingly Good news!

Even when we’re grumpy?

Especially when we are grumpy! God goes with us!

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

Postlude: *Cantabile, Op. 17*, [Niccolò](#) Paganini

Mingmei Xu and Jim Findlay

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

Music Notes

Thanks to Mingmei Xu and Jim Findlay for sharing their gifts and talents with us this morning. They are working together as a duo playing in concerts and worship services and finding wonderful repertoire for violin and guitar. Mingmei finished her Bachelor of Music in Beijing and is here in Edmonton earning her Masters degree in violin at the University of Alberta. Jim Findlay can be heard all over the province as a versatile musician and composer playing in many different styles from gypsy jazz to flamenco, classical to world music.

Bach's aria, Sheep May Safely Graze, has appeared in many formats in the last several hundred centuries! Here's another, with the violin taking the vocal line, guitar playing the orchestral part, and organ playing continuo (chords/harmonies).

Fauré's Pavane was originally written as a piano piece with a chorus and then was transcribed by Fauré for orchestra and optional chorus. It is characterized by the ebb and flow of the melody and harmony and the elegant *Belle Epoque* style. He wished it to be played at a series of light summer concerts.

Paganin's Cantabile is less virtuosic than many of his works, instead leaning more toward the Italian *vocalise* style, writing for the violin more like a voice. The Cantabile (= in a singing style) melody is paired with a wonderful guitar accompaniment.

Cover Image

Cover images: This picture was taken in our Memorial Hall, June 2017.

Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Rev. Leigh Sinclair
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges (on sabbatical)

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



R-W REPORT August 20, 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 27, 2017, 10:30 am

Pentecost 12

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

Scripture:

Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 23

Sermon: *Imagination is my Superpower!*

Anne Shirley, the main character from Anne of Green Gables, is both loved and bullied for her immense imagination. Seeing beyond what is to see what could be is also a gift given to the prophets. Ezekiel was amazing at turning an image into a story and that story into inspiration! Jesus' last meal with his disciples began with him telling stories and now is itself our Story! Come and let us explore the wonder and power of stories that nourish our faith.

Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organist; Joni Soans, violin

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

Volunteer 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.

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

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

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!

MISSION AND SERVICE CELEBRATION - AUGUST 27TH



Next Sunday we will have our Mission and Service (M & S) Celebration in worship, when we invite those who have had a special event in their lives in the last 3 months (June, July and August birthdays, births, new homes, healing) to put a special donation into the bucket for the Mission and Service Fund.

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.

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.

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.

GET BLESSED

September 10, 2017 The blessing of the backpack, briefcases!

Robertson-Wesley United Church invites the Oliver and surrounding community to join us for worship at 10:30 AM to have your backpacks and brief cases blessed for the coming school/program year.

KIDS' CHURCH AND YOUTH GROUP

Begins September 10, 2017

Fall start up begins with registration on Sept 10 with programming for Children ages 2 – Grade 6 and youth Grade 7-12. The first youth group event of the year is Sept 16, 2017 with our season opener, games and sundaes from 7-10 pm. Your friends are welcome to join us.

RIBBON CUTTING AND FREE BBQ AT NOON

On Sunday September 24, 2017, MLA David Shepherd will be joining us for the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of our new elevator at Robertson-Wesley United Church which was made possible because of the CFEP Grant that we received.

Join us for a free BBQ in celebration where we will be serving smokies and lemonade to the community.

MESSY WEDNESDAYS

Starting on **September 27, 2017**, in Memorial Hall on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 5pm – 7pm**, families with children gather for dinner, activities and discussion. The families gather to eat a meal together at no cost to the family, which is served around 5:45pm. We have a couple of volunteers who do the cooking for us, so it is night off for parents! This is part of our outreach ministry and a way to welcome all families to gather together for a time of fellowship. There are activities for the children before and after dinner and adults take the opportunity engage in conversation during the evening. Don't worry if you can't make it right at 5pm. Families invited to help with clean up and children's activities. Grandparents are welcome to join us! This is a wonderful way to get to know other families in the church and the neighbourhood. It is a messy and fun time for all!

R-W IS ACCEPTING ARTWORK!

Art Sale: November 18, 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.

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 ... periods of rest and rejuvenation in a lifetime. A sabbatical is simply getting an extended leave from work to pursue a break from one's regular duties.

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.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Tue Aug 22	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
ON THE HORIZON		
Sun Aug 27	Morning Communion in Chapel	9:00 am
Tue Aug 29	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm

10209 – 123 Street, Edmonton AB T5N 1N3
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mail@rwuc.org www.rwuc.org

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.