



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 October 15

Creation 6



Connected by
the Holy Spirit

Welcome and Inclusion

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

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: *Now Thank We All Our God*, J. S. Bach Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship

The God of Abraham and Sarah,

The God of Jacob, Rachel and Leah,

The God of all of us and all our ancestors has declared:

**Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go,
I will not leave you.**

The promises of God are true:

God provides us with bread, water and community.

The story of God's love is true: The love of God is for all people.

Surely God is in this place, just as God has promised.

We come to worship and praise God!

Prayer of Approach

With grateful hearts we come to this place of community, care and common faith. In our differences remind us we are One through Christ's love and forgiving grace.

As you have been with our ancestors and will be with our descendents, come and be tangible today, for us and this community! Amen.

Opening hymn: *Give Me Oil in My Lamp* (Songs for a Gospel People 130)

1. Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray;
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
keep me burning till the break of day.

REFRAIN:

Sing hosanna! sing hosanna!

Sing hosanna to the Servant King.

Sing hosanna! sing hosanna!

Sing hosanna let us sing!

2. Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising...
3. Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving...
4. Give me love in my heart, keep me serving...

Celebrate God's Presence

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Hymn: *Unbounded Spirit, Breath of God*

More Voices 155, vs 1 & 2

God's Holy Word

Introit: *Wir eilen mit schwachen doch emsigen Schritten* (Cantata 78), J.S. Bach
(Text: We hasten with weak, yet eager steps, Cantilon Chamber Choir
O Jesus, O Master to You for help. You faithfully seek the ill and erring.)

Ah, hear, how we lift up our voices to beg for help.
Let Your gracious countenance be joyful to us.)

Scripture:

Marg May

1 Samuel 3:1-21

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ... Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

This is the witness of Israel.

Thanks be to God our loving Creator.

Anthem: *Agnus Dei*, Imant Raminsh Dawn Bailey, soloist; Cantilon Chamber Choir
(Text: Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world, grant us peace).

Sermon: *God Provides Connection*

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *In the Bulb There is A Flower*

Voices United 703

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Honouring the Flower Group

Let us pray together,

May we continue to remember those who have served you, those here today and those who began this ministry who now are in your heart. In our remembering we honour them. We pray that our remembering will help us to cherish those who serve today and encourage us to be faithful people all our days. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Choir: *A Blessing*, Mark Sirett

Dawn Bailey, flute; Cantilon Chamber Choir

Offering: *Prelude on Robertson-Wesley*, Mark Sirett

Offertory Hymn: *Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands* **Voices United 537**

Prayer of Gratitude

Closing Hymn: *Deep in Our Hearts*

More Voices 154

Commissioning:

Know that God is with you and will keep you wherever you go.
Just as God has promised - God will provide you with connections
and community.

**May the love of God enfold us and the compassion of Christ
surround us.**

May the Holy Spirit empower us all, now and forever. **Amen.**

Postlude: *Finale Jubilante*, Healey Willan

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

Music Notes

Thanks to the Cantilon Chamber Choir, their director Heather Johnson, pianist Shannon Hiebert and soloist Dawn Bailey for their wonderful musical leadership this morning. We have one movement from a Bach cantata as the introit and in two weeks we get a WHOLE Bach Cantata with the Choir of R-W, strings and soloists for Reformation Sunday! Continuing to celebrate our Canadian composers this year, there is some wonderful Canadian music this morning – by Raminsh, Sirett, and the final hymn by Klusmeier and Oldham. The Sirett anthem was commissioned by a choir in Winnipeg. The Sirett organ piece came about after we commissioned him to write an anthem for the Robertson 100th anniversary. His brain wasn't finished with the themes and harmonies of the choral piece, so this organ piece came out!

Cover Image

Cover image: Robertson-Wesley hosts an annual Canterbury Tea and Social (2012).

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R-W REPORT OCTOBER 15, 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

October 22, 2017, 10:30 am

Pentecost 20

Children & Youth: Children begin in the sanctuary, then go to their Kids' Church program. Youth meet in the youth room at the beginning of the service.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Sermon: *Who, Me? Really?*

Sometimes the people we least expect are called upon to take on enormous roles or tasks. Sometimes we are happy about that and sometimes we are not. Sometimes we are called to take on tasks we feel are beyond our capacity. Sometimes it is hard to discern the call. Who? Me? Really? How can you discern whether you are actually called? And to what you are called? One thing we have learned - God needs all kinds of people to answer all kinds of calls. Are you up to it?

Music: Choir of Robertson-Wesley; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

Volunteer Opportunities:

Covenanting Service for Rev. Leigh Sinclair- On Sunday, November 5 at 7:00 pm., we will celebrate the new relationship between our congregation and the Rev. Leigh Sinclair. All are welcome to attend the covenanting service in the sanctuary, followed by refreshments in Memorial Hall. If you would like to help with the reception, please add your name to the list on the bulletin board in the hall by October 15. We will need people to set up, serve, clean up, and bring baking or desserts (see the list for details). Thank you!

Thank you- The bake sale proceeds from the Oct 8 sale were \$333!! All proceeds go to the R-W Legacy fund.

Staff

Rev. Karen Bridges is on sabbatical Aug 1 to Oct 31.

Rev. Leigh Sinclair is on study leave Oct 22-26.

R-W News & Notes.

SPIRITED ARTS MOVEMENT

Artful Responses is a year-long series of one time, art-based workshops dedicated to community building within our current political climate. Artful Responses will allow people to reflect on current injustices within our society.

Oct 20, 2017, 7 to 9 pm - Dis/harmonies #3 - the popular dis/harmonies will continue! Participants are encouraged to come explore and express their natural voices in a variety of ways! Sessions include breath work, learning to listen and project the voice.

GET TO KNOW YOUR CHURCH CHALLENGE

**Please join us on Sunday October 22 during Fellowship time
in Memorial Hall**

Get to know your church & have some fun with the children and youth at the same time!

The children and youth will be gathering people of all ages and abilities into teams of 3-5 people. Each team will be given page of photos of objects/places/architecture in the church. The fun task is to try to determine what the photo is and go and find that spot in the church - **think EYE SPY!** Teams will gather back in the hall 20 minutes later and prizes will be awarded.

It's a great opportunity to get to know your fellow congregation members while exploring the church.

KOINONIA- Blanket Exercise

Sunday, October 29, potluck at 5:00 pm

The group will meet at 5:00 for potluck. After dinner the group will be led by an elder through a Blanket Exercise.

Blanket Exercise participants take on the roles of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Standing on blankets that represent the land, they walk through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance.

RSVP to the office by October 15. Contact: mail@rwuc.org or phone: 780-482-1587, ext 221. \$5 at the door. All funds will go to KAIROS.

**CELEBRATING THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
REFORMATION OCTOBER 29TH**

In the most recent edition of *Between the Aisles* there was an article by Nancy Heule about the Reformation and some of the history and the changes in the church before and during the time of Martin Luther. The United Church is a church born out of the Reformed tradition, from our Methodist and Presbyterian roots. Come celebrate the past with us as we share an entire Bach cantata, look at the Reformation over the last 500 years, and look also into the future as the church continues to “reform” today.

The service that day will feature Bach’s Easter Cantata, BWV 4 “Christ Lag in Todesbanden,” with chamber orchestra (Strathcona String Quartet and friends) using period instruments, soloists from the choir, and a guest soloist from Calgary. We will also sing some wonderful hymns from the Reformed tradition, and hear from theologians who spoke and are still speaking about reformation.

COVENANTING SERVICE WITH REV. LEIGH SINCLAIR

Sunday, November 5 at 7:00 pm with guest preacher Don Mayne

On Nov 5 we will be holding a covenanting service with Edmonton Presbytery and the Rev. Leigh Sinclair followed by a reception in Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and pledge their support to this new step in our ministry together.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

Are you seeking an escape from the world, an oasis in your crazy life? Are you seeking some quiet? Are you seeking time for yourself or inspiration? Then we invite you to engage in **contemplative practices** at R-W in Memorial Hall. When you enter Memorial Hall you will find pockets of inspiration that will clear your mind, open your heart, and bring your spirit into connection with the sacred and the world.

Throughout Memorial Hall there will be different spaces with different contemplative practices that invite you to meditate, pray, while engaging in some artistic exercises. Drop by anytime between the hours of 7-8:30 pm. Stay for as long as you would like. Invite your friends, family and neighbours to enter this oasis and emerge inspired, enlightened, grounded and feeling nourished.

Nov 12, 2017 Remembrance theme – remember loved ones, remember companions and pets, remember those who came before.

MAMMA MIA ITALIAN DINNER

Saturday, Oct. 21, 5:30 pm - Bring your family & friends out a delicious buffet supper. It will begin with bruschetta, spaghetti with homemade sauces, caesar salad, garlic bread, and will end with a delectable dessert. Wine bar and other refreshments available. See insert for more info.

CREATIVE SELF CARE WORKSHOP

Remembering Self. Saturday, November 18, 10 am – 2:30 pm

People from the community are welcome to participate in a healing focused artistic workshop at no cost to you.

November is a month for remembering...but as this season gets busy we can often forget self. Instead we need to be intentional in remembering self. While self-care is known to be an ethical issue for healthcare professionals; it is equally important for all caregivers – and for all of us – to prioritize our own health and wellness. In this workshop, we will explore mindful creative arts practices, as ways to manage stress and find greater self-compassion.

This will be the first of three workshops offered at Robertson-Wesley. Register online from the Spirited Arts Movement web page.

R-W IS ACCEPTING ARTWORK!

Art Sale: November 18, 2017, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

R-W's annual Art Sale needs your art donations. Art is "in the eyes of the beholder" - so we accept art of every 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. WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF ART.** 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.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Oct 15	Worship ctte– Library	11:30 am
Mon Oct 16	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tue Oct 17	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Board– Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Oct 18	Women's Weekend ctte– Club Room	5:00 pm
	Choir of R-W– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Oct 19	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Fri Oct 20	Dis/harmonies– Sanctuary	7:00 pm
Sat Oct 21	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am
	Italian Dinner– Memorial Hall	5:30 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.