



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 October 29

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Pledge Sunday

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.

Read with the Spirit,
the Word becomes
Living Bread



Prelude: *Chorale & Sinfonia (Christ Lag in Todesbanden)*, J. S. Bach
Chamber Orchestra

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach (from *Our Song of Faith*)

We offer worship as an outpouring of gratitude and awe

and a practice of opening ourselves

to God's still, small voice of comfort.

It is a practice of opening ourselves

to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.

Holy and gracious God, Open us up through

word, music, art, silence and sacrament,

in community and in solitude,

God change our lives, our relationships, and our world.

God reform and renew our lives,

our relationships and our world, for Christ, Amen!

Introit: *Christ Lag in Todesbanden (Versus I)* Choir of Robertson-Wesley
(Text: Christ lay in death's bonds, given over for our sins,
He has risen again and brought us life;
therefore we should be joyful, praise God, be thankful and sing Hallelujah. Hallelujah!)

Opening hymn: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* **Voices United 262**
Celebrate God's Presence Stewardship Committee

God's Holy Word

Duet: *Den Tod niemand zwingen kunnt (Versus II)*
Claire Rolheiser, soprano; Julie Golosky, alto
(Text: No one could defeat death among all humanity, this was all because of our sins,
no innocence was to be found. Therefore death came so soon and took power over us,
held us captive in his kingdom. Hallelujah!)

Prayer for the Illumination of Scripture (taken from *Our Song of Faith*)

Scriptures: Romans 3: 21-24, 26 Lisa Fairweather
But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is
attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in
Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned
and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift,
through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, it was to prove at the present time
that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

Solo: *Jesus Christus, Gottes Sohn (Versus III)* Oliver Munar, tenor
(Text: Jesus Christ, God's son, has come in our place and has done away with sin.
Thereby taking from death all his rights and power, nothing remains but death's form,
He has lost his sting. Hallelujah!)

Sermon: *God provides and WE RESPOND!* Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* **Voices United 333**

Anthem: Es war ein wunderlicher Krieg (*Versus IV*) Choir of R-W
(Text: It was a strange battle that death and life waged, life claimed the victory,
it devoured death. The scripture has prophesied this, how one death gobbled up the other,
a mockery has been made out of death. Hallelujah!)

Pastoral Prayers¹

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Invitation to Pledge to our mission and give offerings to God

Offering: *Hier ist das rechte Osterlamm (Versus V)* Matthew McGuigan, bass
(Text: Here is the true Easter-lamb, offered up by God, which was, high on the cross'
stalk roasted in hot love, the blood marks our door, faith holds it against death,
the strangler can no longer harm us. Hallelujah!)

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

Prayer of Gratitude²

Duet: *So feiern wir das hohe Fest (Versus VI)*

Claire Rolheiser, soprano; Oliver Munar, tenor

(Text: So we celebrate the high festival with joy of heart and delight,
which the Lord radiates upon us, God is the sun, that through the splendour of God's
grace illuminates our hearts completely, the night of sin has disappeared. Hallelujah!)

Closing Hymn: *Unbounded Spirit, Breath of God, v.1, 4, 5 More* **Voices 155**

Choral Benediction: *Wir essen und leben wohl (Versus VII)* Choir of R-W

(Text: We eat and live well on the true Easter bread,
the old leaven shall not exist next to the word of grace, Christ will be our food and
nourish the soul alone, faith will live in no other way. Hallelujah!)

Commissioning:

We have listened, we have shared.

We have sung, we have pledged.

We have been about God's work.

We go with hope because of the forgiveness we have received.

We go with compassion because of the care we have received.

We go pledging to serve our God in our time and places.

With God's help we will be about God's work!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Postlude: *Toccata in C Major, BWV 564*, J. S. Bach

Erik Reinart, organ

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

Music Notes

¹ Karen Boivin, *Gathering Pentecost 2* 2017, 45. Used with permission.

² Robin Wardlaw, *Gathering Pentecost 2*, 2017, 45. Used with permission.

“Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits... prophets did not desire without reason that music be always used in the churches. Hence, we have so many songs and psalms. This precious gift has been given to us alone that we might thereby remind ourselves that God has created us for the express purpose of praising and extolling God.” Luther’s Preface to Georg Rhau’s *Symphoniae iucundae* (1538).

Thank you to everyone involved in the music this morning – the soloists: Claire Rolheiser, soprano; Julie Golosky, alto; Oliver Munar, tenor (especially for coming from Calgary!) and Matthew McGuigan, bass. Thanks to the orchestra for doing such a wonderful job: Jennifer Bustin & Shannon Johnson, violin; Martina Smazal & Leanne Maitland, viola; Josephine van Lier, cello and Erik Reinart, organ.

Thank you to the Alberta Baroque Ensemble for the loan of the portative organ, to the Da Camera Singers for the loan of the orchestra parts, and to Arnold & Grace Rumbold for a generous donation to support the music program.

This Easter cantata was written by J. S. Bach probably around 1707. It was written in German, not Latin, as German was the vernacular by Bach’s time. We chose this cantata for today (out of his 150 cantatas) as the text and the chorale are by Martin Luther, appropriate for celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation!

The whole cantata is based on this chorale, and you will hear snippets of it throughout – in the solos, choir parts and orchestra.

Since this cantata was written in 1707, and taken from words written much earlier (published in 1524) there is atonement theology throughout. It fits with the Easter message that “Christ died for our sins, and has risen again” but places a lot of emphasis on sin and death. However, with Bach’s setting of the seven verses that Luther penned, there is also a great emphasis on the “Hallelujah” at the end of each verse. Bach sets this one word in a very grand, extended way or in a very melismatic (lots of notes) style to emphasize the importance of the Easter message. The last happy coincidence is that the end of this cantata talks about bread, the true Easter bread and leaven – what we’ve been talking about all month in stewardship!

Cover Image

Cover images: This photograph taken by Jim Triscott brings together beautiful images of Jesus, our Word, Bread, Inspiration and Light (2017).

Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Rev. Leigh Sinclair
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges
(on sabbatical until November 2017)

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R-W REPORT OCTOBER 29, 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

November 5, 2017, 10:30 am

Pentecost 22, Communion, Minute for Mission

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 Kings 19: 1-18 Elijah meets God at Horeb

Sermon: *Remember you are not alone*

The prophet Elijah finds himself tired, exhausted alone, and living in fear for his life. He seeks solitude and in the quietness he reaches his breaking point. He's ready to check out. Elijah wrestles with God in his time of despair and with God's encouragement, trust, support and love Elijah finds healing and wholeness leading him to continue to answer God's call. Have you remembered to wrestle with God lately?

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.

Staff

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

Volunteer Opportunities:

All is Bright- Annual festival is back in the neighbourhood! Various positions and times available. Sign-up sheet is posted in Memorial Hall.

Magic Pantry- R-W provides a free bag lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. This outreach program relies on volunteers to be available at the door from 12 pm to 1 pm to hand out lunches.

Communion Servers: Our next Communion, by Intinction, is **Sunday, Nov 5**. Servers are needed for this Communion. If you are able to serve please sign up on the sheet in Memorial Hall.

Thank you: Special thanks to Leigh and the Congregation for their prayers during our difficult time. George will be in the General Hospital for some time, but is improving!

Kindest regards to all. – George and Lois Ford

R-W News & Notes

BETWEEN THE AISLES

The deadline for the next edition (Nov 26) is November 5.

Article submissions: rwucnews@gmail.com. For guidelines and submission details see: <http://rwuc.org/publications.html>

CELEBRATING THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION OCTOBER 29TH

The service today 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. See more information in the music notes portion of the bulletin.

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

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

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 through the Spirited Arts Movement web page.

SPEAK OUR WORDS – EXPLORE THROUGH POETRY

Artful Justice Responses Workshop

Friday, Nov 17, from 7 - 9 pm

The Spirited Arts Movement at Robertson-Wesley is on the move. People from the community are welcome to participate in a justice focused artful response. This art-based workshop is dedicated to community building within our current political climate. Artful responses will allow people to reflect on current injustices within our society.

There is no cost, please register online: www.rwuc.org/sam.html

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.** 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.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

We need donations for male and females of all ages (about 350 total) of NEW (purchased, re-gifted, or handmade):

Hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and socks

These will be stored, then placed around a tree in the chapel, and offered as gifts to Dec. 2nd Christmas Community Dinner guests.

NOTE: This is NOT affiliated with White Gift Sunday which is the unwrapped gift donations that will be located in the main sanctuary.



TIME TO FALL BACK

Remember to turn the clocks back 1 hour on Sunday, Nov. 5

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WOMEN EDUCATORAS OF R-W; you are invited

Tuesday, November 7, 6:45 pm with Delta Kappa Gamma

Whether you are an educator in a school or in another educational role in your profession or voluntary position, we invite you to DKG, a women educators group in Room 11. The topic is decluttering, a topic that scares most of us. The speaker is Daina Benson from her company, “Keep it Neat.” She has solutions that we can manage.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Oct 29	Koinonia; Blanket Exercise– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Mon Oct 30	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	7:00 pm
	Spirited Art; Gendered?– Room 11	7:00 pm
Tue Oct 31	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	1:30 pm
Wed Nov 01	Canterbury service– offsite	10:30 am
	Choir of R-W– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Nov 02	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Fri Nov 03	Pastoral Visiting Training– Memorial Hall	7:00 pm
Sat Nov 04	Pastoral Visiting Training– Memorial Hall	12:00 pm
	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am
	R-W Youth Group– offsite	6:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Nov 05	Covenanting Service– Sanctuary & Hall	7:00 pm
Mon Nov 06	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tue Nov 07	DEAP Pod– Club Room	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	1:30 pm
Wed Nov 08	Men’s Group– offsite	9:30 am
	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Fri Nov 10	Artful Responses, Spirited Arts– Room 11	7:00 pm
Sat Nov 11	Community Dinner– Memorial Hall	5:00 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.