



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of

2018 April 15

Sacrament of Communion

Easter 3



*How wide is your world view?
Who do we welcome at the table?*

Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstance, sexual orientation, or age. 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: *Idyll*, Robin King

Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit *Alleluia*

More Voices 54

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 51: 1-3):

Sing out to God our strength;

We raise a shout for joy to the God of ancestors.

Raise a song, sound the tambourine,

We raise a shout of joy to the Risen Christ.

Blow the trumpet at the new moon,

We raise a shout of joy to the Spirit of Life!

Processional Hymn: *The Spring Has Come*

Voices United 187

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Scripture:

Lea Callebaut

Acts 9: 1-19 • Paul's encounter with Christ

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

This is the witness of the Church.

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

Anthem: *Morning Has Broken*, Robin King

Matthew McGuigan, flute & Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *How Wide is Our View of God's Love?*

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *We Gather Here (Come, Share the Lord)*

Voices United 469

Pastoral Prayers (*sung response*)

(*Voices United*, p. 933, Haugen)

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

...let us pray to the

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

(last time)

Help, save, and defend us, O God.

Choir: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* 921)

Grateful Response

Minute for Mission

Sylvia Duffus

Offering: *in seven/eight*, Robin King

Offertory Hymn *When at This Table*

More Voices 199 v 4

If at this table I make dedication

to give my life in serving what is good,

then let my centre be where God invites me,

and show the words of Jesus understood.

Prayer of Gratitude (based on Psalm 5:8)

Lead me, O God of wideness and depth,

Lead us, in your righteousness.

Make your way straight before us.

Make our invitation to the table wide and deep!

Transform these gifts and our very lives into Love made known!

For Jesus, Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

All who worship with us today, regardless of age or church membership, are invited and welcome to partake in this sacrament. Gluten-free bread is available on request and the "wine" is non-alcoholic grape juice.

We Give Thanks:

God's love is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

Holy God of all creation: you created a deep and wide diversity in your world – from spiders and mites to lions and whales.

We raise a shout for joy to the God of ancestors.

Holy God of all creation: you created humans diverse as well – from the large and small, coloured so many hues and speaking so many wonderful languages.

We raise a shout for joy to the God of ancestors.

Holy God of all creation: we now join with voices of earth and heaven, birds and bees, children and elders to sing your praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy (sung): *(Voices United, p. 932-933, Haugen)*

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in your name.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

We Remember:

Gathered together here, and mindful of your many circles of faith around the world, we seek to welcome all to this table. Widen our invitation to those we know and those we do not. Widen our invitation to those we love and those we do not.

We raise a shout of joy to the Risen Christ.

We invite all to this - not our table or our church's table but – Jesus's table and into his story of Love. We remember what Jesus did the night before he died. He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat; remember me."

Then he took the cup, and said, "Take, drink; remember me."

We raise a shout of joy to the Risen Christ.

By this bread and cup, we remember Christ and share in the mystery of your being, your bliss, your purpose.

Memorial Acclamation (sung): *(Voices United, p. 933, Haugen)*

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come, come again.

Prayer of Transformation:

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who share in this bread and cup may remember that all share in this bread and cup!

We raise a shout of joy to the Spirit of Life!

We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, and in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

We raise a shout of joy to the Spirit of Life!

Great Amen (sung): **Amen!** *(Voices United, p. 933, Haugen)*

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music: *Lead Me Lord*, Robin King Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Prayer after Communion:

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.

Strengthen our faith, widen our views, and send us forth into the world united in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: *For the Healing of the Nations* **Voices United 678**

Commissioning:

Ananias said to Paul: The Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here will fill you with the Holy Spirit.

We too go out with Jesus, who will appear before us in friend and stranger, filled by the Holy Spirit!

Postlude: *An Unconventional Voluntary*, Robin King

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

Music Notes

A bit of a Robin King festival today! Sometimes things just work together! Robin was the music director here at R-W from 1988-1993. After working at some secular jobs for a while, including as Executive Director of the Alberta Choral Federation (now Choir Alberta) he decided to follow a call into the ministry. He is now a United Church minister in Central Alberta at Bashaw and Ponoka United Church and an on-line ministry called "Six Ways from Sunday". He is still involved in music, especially in musical theatre. I love what he says on the congregations web site: "I see the similarities between what community theatre can be and what the church ought to be: a place where everyone can feel safe to grow, a place where people feel they belong – and "belong" means more than just fitting in. It means feeling a part of something for what you bring to it as much as what you get from it. It means a place where love is experienced and shared. That's what builds community. Just like Jesus: live love and don't be afraid."

The anthem is in memory of Bill Lumsden, who was a member of this church and community. The communion music was written on this text because Robin grew up singing the S. S. Wesley setting of this text, perhaps grew tired of it, and decided to write his own!

The organ music is all really interesting. *Idyll* was written in 2003, dedicated to the memory of the wonderful Canadian organist Gerald Bales, and was published in 2004. It is really the precursor to the piece he wrote for us for the 100th anniversary of the Wesley congregation in 2007. You can really hear the beginnings of this anthem in this organ piece. The seven/eight piece is typical Robin having rhythmic fun, and the last piece is written in sort of an English voluntary style, but with some quirks, just like the friend he wrote it for, a colleague of ours, Darwin Pearson!

Cover Image

Front cover image is a picture taken on Maundy Thursday 2015 and our back cover, by Hal Thiessen, was taken on Easter Sunday 2018.

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