

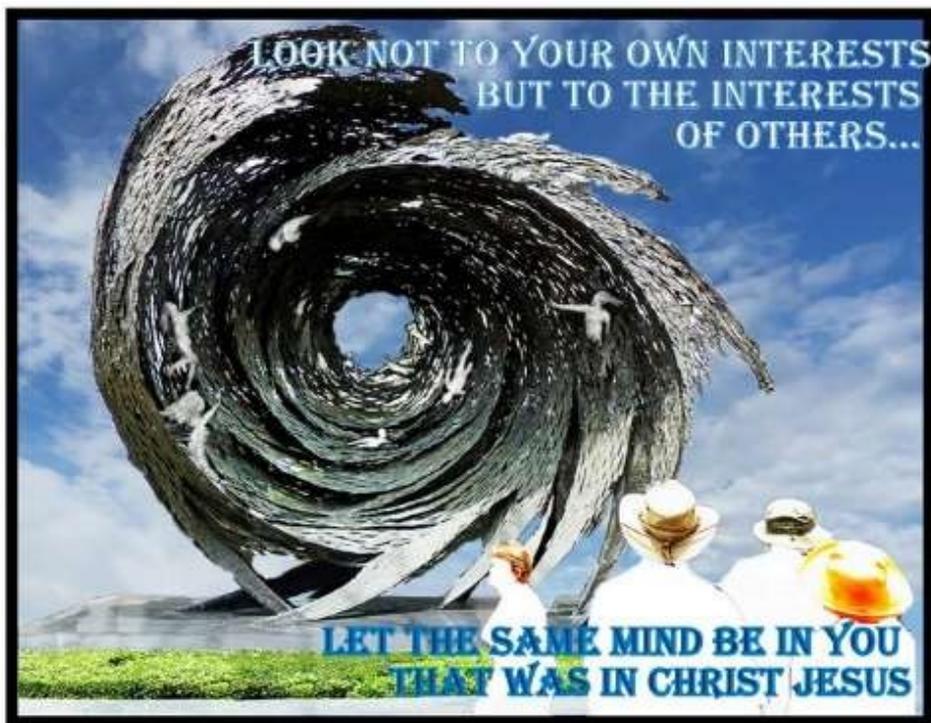


0 An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of

2018 May 13

Life Passages

Easter 7



Welcome and Inclusion

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

Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit *Alleluia* (three times)

More Voices 54

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach:

Whether it's sitting by the window, **or walking down the street.**

Whether it's while we're working, **or while we're playing.**

No matter the place or the time, **God speaks to creation.**

Are we listening? If we're listening, we'll know, deep in our hearts that **God is still speaking.**

Not just "back then." Not just "in the Bible." But, right here and right now: **God is still speaking.**

So, let our listening be our worship.

Let us pray:

God, we're here, ready. Ready to learn. Ready to teach. Ready to love. Call our names. Tell us what we need to do, and what we need to stop doing. We're here, God. Open us up to your love. In the name of the Risen One, Jesus the Christ, we ask it. Amen.¹

Processional Hymn: *Draw the Circle Wide* (English/French) **More Voices 145**

Coming Into God's Presence

DEAP Pod

Life Passages

Sacrament of Baptism and Reaffirmation: Brenda Sheppard & Caroline De Grave

Baptism & Affirmation of Faith: Ming-Ying Chou

Baptism: Jaelle Bapeu Ngende, Wisdom Luanzanza Ngende, Rais Luanzanza Ngende, Pael Luanzanza Ngenda – children of Papy & Elyse Ngenda

Prayer for the Holy Spirit (in unison)

Eternal God, whose Son the Servant-Lord Jesus Christ has commissioned us to make disciples of people of all nations baptizing them in your name. May your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Congregation's Promise (standing)

We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you. With God's help we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work.

Recommitment: A New Creed

Voices United 918

Please note the last line of the creed (omitted in some of our hymn books):

Thanks be to God.

¹ Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2015, p. 41. Used with permission.

Blessing (sung)

(Voices United 454)

**May God who creates you give you light;
May God who sustains you make you wise;
May God who protects you give you joy;
May God who surrounds you give you peace.**

God's Holy Word

Introit: *Christus Factus Est*, Felice Anerio

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

(Text: Christ was made obedient even to death, death on the cross. God therefore exalted him and gave him a name excelling all others.)

Scripture:

Donna Krucik

Philippians 2:1-13 • Imitating Christ's Humility

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

This is the witness of the Church.

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

Anthem: *How Can I Keep from Singing?*, Traditional, arr. Joyce Eilers

Claire Rolheiser, soprano; Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Look to the interests of others!*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *I Have Called You by Your Name (English/French)* **More Voices 161**

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Karen Bridges

Lord's Prayer

Voices United 921

Grateful Response

Offering: *Passacaglia*, Luigi Rossi

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

Recessional Hymn: *The Church of Christ in Every Age Voices United* 601

Commissioning:

Go and dare.

We go to dare to follow where Jesus leads: into the margins and into new relationship.

Go and listen.

We go to listen for surprising voices, found in unexpected places and in times of wonder.

Go and love.

We go to love ourselves by God's gracious blessing, loving others with the same open gaze.²

Postlude: *For the Beauty of the Earth*, arr. Micahel Burkhardt

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

Music Notes

Last week we heard the reading about Paul being in prison, and today our anthem alludes to that story and that even when times are tough, we still need to praise God. This piece has been attributed to Robert Lowry, a Baptist minister who wrote a lot of Gospel music. The Latin Introit is directly from the reading today-Philippians 2:8-9. The Magnificat prelude is in tribute to all mothers and mother figures today – the Magnificat is what Mary sang when she found out she was pregnant with Jesus.

Cover Image

The cover image is a picture taken by Tony Jansen while on tour in Jakarta Indonesia in 2018. Jim Triscott and Rev. Karen did some editing. The sculpture is called: Arjuna Wijaya Sculpture produced in 2003. The plaque near the statue reads: "Sculpture reflects the radiance of inspiration for the spirit of cultural preservation."

Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Rev. Leigh Sinclair
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges
Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen
Office Administrator: Elyse Munro
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell
Financial Manager: Garth van Herwaarden

10209 – 123 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 1N3
Phone (780) 482-1587 · Fax (780) 482-1580
mail@rwuc.org · www.rwuc.org



² Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2012, p. 41. Used with permission.