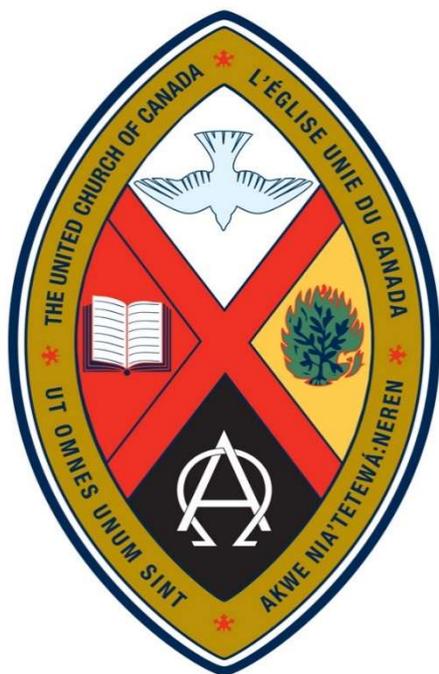




An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of

2018 May 27

Trinity



Since 1944 the United Church crest has included the Latin words “ut omnes unum sint” which says “That all may be one.” In 1980, a French translation was added to the crest and in 2012 The United Church of Canada acknowledged the presence and spirituality of Aboriginal peoples in the United Church by revising the church’s crest to include the Mohawk phrase “Akwe Nia’Tetewá:neren,” which means “all my relations.”

Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, 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: *Spiritus*, Susan T. Nelson

Matthew McGuigan, flute; Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

We sing of God the Spirit, faithful and untameable, who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.

The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy not only in what is familiar, but also in that which seems foreign.

We sing of the Spirit, who speaks our prayers of deepest longing and enfolds our concerns and confessions, transforming us and the world.

We offer worship as an outpouring of gratitude and awe and a practice of opening ourselves to God's still, small voice of comfort, to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.

Through word, music, art, and sacrament, in community and in solitude, God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.

We sing with trust.¹

Opening Hymn: *Praise Our Maker*

Voices United 316

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Introit: *Alleluia*, Kelly Marie Murphy

Cantilon Chamber Choir

Prayer of Illumination:

Scripture is our song for the journey, the living word passed on from generation to generation to guide and inspire, that we might wrestle a holy revelation for our time and place from our human experiences and cultural assumptions of another era.

The wholeness of scripture testifies to the oneness and faithfulness of God. The multiplicity of scripture testifies to its depth: two testaments, four gospels, contrasting points of view held in tension – all a faithful witness to the One and Triune God, the Holy Mystery that is Wholly love. Amen.²

Scripture:

Psalms 33

Voices United p. 760

Hebrews 11: 1-3 • Faith is...

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the

¹ Excerpt from A Song of Faith, 2006.

² Excerpt from A Song of Faith, 2006.

worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

This is the witness of the Church.

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

Anthem: *Lauda Sion*, Gyorgy Oban

Cantilon Chamber Choir

(Text translation: Sion, lift up thy voice and sing:

Praise thy Savior and thy King, Praise with hymns thy shepherd true.

All thou canst, do thou endeavour: Yet thy praise can equal never

Such as merits thy great King. See today before us laid

The living and life-giving Bread, Theme for praise and joy profound.

The same which at the sacred board Was, by our incarnate Lord,

Giv'n to His Apostles round. Let the praise be loud and high:

Sweet and tranquil be the joy Felt today in every breast.

On this festival divine which records the origin of the glorious Eucharist.)

Sermon: *Sharing visible signs of the grace of God.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *God Who Inspires Creative Dreams*, Paul Chappel/Jeff Enns

(please see insert)

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Lord's Prayer

Voices United 916 (Paraphrase)

Grateful Response

Offering: *Salve Regina*, Miklos Koscar

Cantilon Chamber Choir

(Text translation: Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, Our life, our sweetness, and our hope, hail. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, To thee do we send up our sighs, Mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, Thine eyes of mercy upon us; And after this exile, Show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.)

Offertory Hymn *Let the Giving of Thanks*, Iona Community

(insert)

Prayer of Gratitude:

Closing Hymn: *Through the Heart of Every City*

Voices United 584

Commissioning:

As we go, we sing of God's good news lived out, a church with purpose:

Faith nurtured and hearts comforted, gifts shared for the good of all, resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize, fierce love in the face of violence, human dignity defended, members of a community held and inspired by God, corrected and comforted, instrument of the loving Spirit of Christ's creation's mending.

Grateful for God's loving action, we cannot keep from singing.³

³ Excerpt from A Song of Faith, 2006.

Following worship, please attend the R-W Ringers 45-minute concert, or proceed in to Memorial Hall right after the service, or during or after the concert for fellowship and refreshments.

Music Notes

Thanks to Paul Chappel, a colleague from Dundas, ON for his wonderful hymn text this morning, and to Jeff Enns, a colleague from Elmira, ON for setting it so beautifully to the hymn tune that Paul chose! Thanks also to the Cantilon Chamber Choir for their leadership and participation, and to their accompanist Shannon Hiebert for playing the organ part this morning! This hymn is dedicated to a few ringers who have retired from the R-W Ringers recently – Lorna Davidchuk, Jan Millson, Janet Perras and Julie Sabo.

The R-W Ringers share some great music for the season of Pentecost and for today – Trinity Sunday. The piece “Spiritus” was inspired by the rich mysticism of English folklore, and the Spirit moving. You can hear the wind in the flute and in the singing bell technique at the beginning as well as in the wind chimes.

Spiritfire will begin our concert. This is a very “Spirited” piece – just like Robertson-Wesley! It’s also in a unique time signature...most of the piece is in 7/8 time which is very different from our usual 4/4! We hope you can stay for the rest of the concert and enjoy our gifts of the spirit.

Cover Image

Cover image is the current crest of the United Church of Canada. It was designed by Dr. V.T. Mooney, and adopted by General Council in 1944. Its oval shape is derived from the outline of a fish, which was used as a symbol of identity by early Christians. The initials of the words “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour” spell the Greek word for fish. The “X” at the centre is the first letter in the Greek word for Christ. The open Bible represents the Congregational Churches with their emphasis upon God’s truth that makes people free. The dove is emblematic of the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:10) whose transforming power has been a distinctive mark of Methodism. The burning bush is the symbol of Presbyterianism. It refers to the bush that burned and was not consumed (Exodus 3:2), and symbolizes the indestructibility of the Church. The symbols Alpha and Omega in the lower quarter are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They symbolize the eternal living God, in the fullness of creation (Revelation 1:8).

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