



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of

2018 June 10

United Church Anniversary Sunday



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstances. 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: *Skye Boat Song* and *Afton Water*, Richard Lloyd & Colin Hand
Tammy-Jo Mortensen

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

We believe that you call us to seek unity and build bridges, Gracious God, but others accuse us of being wishy-washy and indecisive. We have responded to your call to follow the Way of Jesus, but others tell us that maybe we aren't really Christians at all. We seek to take scripture seriously and let it shape our lives, but others tell us we have abandoned your Word.

You tell us to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.

You call us to risk everything for the sake of your gospel, but others tell us that we have risked too much, questioned too much, debated too much, and have lost our way.

Remind us, Gracious God, of who and whose we are.

Remind us, in scripture, in song, in prayer, of your call and your mission for each of us and for our denomination. Amen. ¹

Processional Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine* (insert)

Coming Into God's Presence

God's Holy Word

Scripture: John Flemming

Psalm 145 *Voices United* p. 866

Acts 8: 26-40 • Baptism on the Way

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the witness of the Church.

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

Anthem: *Glora* (*Celtic Mass for the Sea*), Scott Macmillan Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Evangelism: what does that even mean?* Rev. Leigh Sinclair

¹ Written by Susan Lukey, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2018, page 30. Used with permission

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.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Voices United 916 (Paraphrase)

Grateful Response

Minute for Mission

Sylvia Duffus

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

Offertory Hymn: *Let the Giving of Thanks*

Iona Community

Let the giving of thanks be our sacrifice to God. (three times)

Amen. (three times)

Prayer of Gratitude

Creator of our hearts, Christ of our lives,

Spirit of each moment—

we aren't very good at bending our knee,

But we know, God of all, that we are yours,

heart, mind, and soul;

you love and protect, and cherish and challenge us.

Guide us, O God, as we live our part and give our portion.

In Christ's name, we ask it. Amen.²

Sacrament of Holy Communion³

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

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

Therefore, we greet each other with these words:

The Lord with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

we lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God for it is right so to do.

² Written by Richard Bott. *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2018, page 29. Used with permission.

³ Written by Susan Lukey celebrating *A New Creed*. *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2018, page 87. Used with permission.

It is also right that, as we come to this table, we declare what we believe:

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.**

Trusting in God, believing in God, giving thanks to God,
we lend our hearts this day to the ancient story and join with angels
and archangels, with saints present and saints past, and with those in
every age who have opened their hearts to sing this unending hymn.

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

With song in our hearts and thanks on our lips, we gather around this
table remembering another story:

**On the night when Jesus accepted the path leading to death, he
came to the table with his disciples and friends.**

During the meal, Jesus took bread, lifted it to the heavens, and gave
thanks, then broke the bread, and shared it around the table saying:

...

Each time you share this cup, remember me.” With wonder lighting
our eyes and mystery warming our hearts we declare:

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

*Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come, come again.*

Prayer of Transformation

Embracing the mystery of our faith, as a gathered community,
we name our purpose:

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

Come, God, who has created and is creating.

Come, Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Come Spirit, who works in us and others.

Come, God in whom we trust.

Let this meal nourish us, body, mind, and spirit, that we may be your presence in this world, bringing hope, bringing justice, bringing love so that others may know the truth that we embrace:

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us. We are not alone.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ,
in unity with the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Great Amen (sung): *Amen!*

(Voices United, p. 933, Haugen)

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music: *How Can I Keep from Singing?* J. David Moore Córtes

Prayer after Communion

For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted,

for the life we have received we thank you, God.

Grant that what we have done and have been given here

may so put its mark upon us that it may remain always in our hearts.

Grant that we may become mature Christian, that ours may be

faith which issues in action; through Christ our Lord. Amen.⁴

Recessional Hymn: *Send Me, Lord*

Voices United 572

Commissioning

And now, touched by God's Spirit, which makes us free,

held in God's love, which gives us strength,

befriended by God's son, who breaks down walls,

let us live with hearts wide open to all the adventure,

all the pain, all the joy, of being God's people,

in every place life calls us to be.⁵

Postlude: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*, John A. Behnke

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

Music Notes

⁴ From the United Church of Canada's *Service Book*, 1969.

⁵ Written by Bob Root. *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2018, page 30. Used with permission.

Two pieces for the prelude that wrap up the “water series” of music we’ve been doing leading up to last Friday evening’s “Celtic Mass for the Sea” concert, (we will sing one piece from the mass this morning). The Skye Boat song and Afton Water are both Scottish folk songs, as we celebrate the United Church of Canada anniversary, and one of the roots – the Scots Presbyterians. Also, an organ piece written for us, to celebrate Robertson-Wesley, by Canadian Mark Sirett.

Thank you to the R-W Córte for sharing today’s communion music: Claire Rolheiser and Lara Tang, sopranos, Julie Golosky and Caroline De Grave, altos, Neal Neigel and Casper Seely, tenors, and Matthew McGuigan, bass.

J. David Moore’s arrangement of the popular hymn *How Can I Keep From Singing* is stylistically reminiscent of “shape-note” or Sacred Heart singing, which is a tradition that strives to make singing in harmony a more accessible, participatory experience rather than something done for an audience (in fact, Sacred Harp singers will arrange themselves in a square facing each other so they are really singing for each other!) The key of the song would be selected by a leader, who would start the singing, with the other parts finding their pitches in relation. We hope this simple, fun arrangement inspires you to sing out as well!

Cover Image

Today’s cover image is the logo for this year’s gathering of the **General Council of the United Church of Canada** which is the elected representatives from each Presbytery and Conference joining with ecumenical partners and national committee members to make denomination-shaping decisions. The theme of this year’s event, the 43rd of its kind, is “Risking and Daring.” Keep an eye out for information on live “watching parties” that we will hold this July!

These are strong action words that call forth our courage and our trust in God. In times of fear, when we may be tempted to retreat into the familiar, comfortable, and “safe,” we are called to a faith that takes risks, that dares to hope in a future we cannot yet see. This hope is not passive, but rather propels us to stretch beyond our assumed limits, to risk profound transformation for the sake of our own healing and the healing of the world. **The dove**—a symbol of faith, love and peace—soars in the midst of a blue wave, representing the many challenges that threaten to overwhelm us. **The wave** can also be seen as a tide of positive change. We move forward with the wave, determined to meet challenges with strength drawn from our faith. The dove passes through the wave and is warmed by **the sun**, a symbol of all life that gives us hope.

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

