



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of

2018 June 17

Pentecost 4



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, gender, differing abilities or ethnicity. 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: *Prelude on Rhysomedre*, Ralph Vaughan Williams

Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

God knows each one of us, by name, by character, by our faults, and by our successes, and God calls us out and away from our other pastimes,

into relationship into friendship, into love with God and with each other, to uphold and uplift us, to heal us of our shortcomings, to make us whole in God's love and in the love of neighbour. Let us worship God!¹

Processional Hymn: *Serve the Lord*

Insert

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Introit: *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*, Carl Schalk

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scripture:

Caroline DeGrave

Psalms 15

Voices United p. 736

Romans 14: 1-23 • Do not judge another

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.

Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall.

And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother and sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God. Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but

¹ Written by George Allan. **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2017, page 30. Used with permission.

resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upblinding. Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for you to make others fall by what you eat; it is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble. The faith that you have, have as your own conviction before God. Blessed are those who have no reason to condemn themselves because of what they approve. But those who have doubts are condemned if they eat, because they do not act from faith; for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

This is the witness of the Church.

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

Anthem: *Come Down, O Love Divine*, John Leavitt

Andy Melson, violin; Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Let us not be a hindrance or stumbling block!* Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *When We Are Living*

Voices United 581

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Lord's Prayer

Voices United 916 (Paraphrase)

Grateful Response

Offering: *Come, Holy Ghost*, Herbert Paulmichl

Offertory Hymn: *Let the Giving of Thanks*

Iona Community

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

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Prayer of Gratitude

Recessional Hymn: *Wherever You May Go*

More Voices 216

Commissioning

Into a world aching for hope and meaning,

We go.

Into relationships yearning for healing and wholeness,

We go.

Into communities seeking vision and direction,

We go.

We go with Christ as our centre, with the Spirit's guidance and strength, and with the blessing of God's grace.

Amen.²

Postlude: *Prelude on Hyfrydol*, Ralph Vaughan Williams

Music Notes

This morning we have two anthems based on Pentecost hymns for the continued season of Pentecost. The Schalk introit is based on the tune “Deo Gracias”. It speaks about Jesus life, from birth to death. Schalk (b. 1929) is a Lutheran composer, lecturer, and author and taught for many years at Concordia in Chicago, where he helped develop a Master’s in Church Music program, which has graduated hundreds of students. He has written hundreds of hymn tunes and carols, three of which are in Voices United.

Thanks to Andy Melson for playing on the anthem, written by American composer, conductor, teacher and church musician John Leavitt (b. 1956). He taught briefly at Concordia University in Edmonton. His primary composition genre is church music, and he has written for organ, choirs, handbells, strings and piano. This text comes from the 15thc, written by an Italian poet Bianco da Siena (d. 1434). In 1367 da Siena entered the Order of the Jesuates, consisting of unordained men who followed the rule of St. Augustine. This order was later suppressed by Pope Clement IX. The three stanzas of this translated version appears at Voices United 367. The tune often used for this hymn is by the English composer Vaughan Williams. So for the organ music this morning - two more pieces by Vaughan Williams, also on hymn tunes. For the offering, an organ piece based on the very traditional plainchant “Veni Creator Spiritus” found in Voices United 200.

Cover Image

Cover image was taken by Rev. Karen Bridges in Toronto, June 2018

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**, Pentecost 1 2017, p. 42. Used with permission.