



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of

2018 July 1

Pentecost 6



### Welcome and Inclusion

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

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## Friends in Christ

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Prelude: *Fugue on O Canada*, Conrad Letendre      Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ  
Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

Open wide the window of our spirits, God!

**Fill us with light.**

Open with the shelter of your Love, God!

**Cool us with the shade of your Creation.**

Open wide the door of our hearts, that we may receive you.

**Thank you for the gifts of this time and our prayers of adoration.**

**Amen.**<sup>1</sup>

Opening Music: *O Canada*      (in English or French) **Voices United 524**  
Led by Robert Clark

**(Note: the new official English lyrics differ from the ones printed in Voices United – the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> line is “in all of us command”).**

Coming Into God’s Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

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## God’s Holy Word

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Solo: *The Call*, Ralph Vaughan Williams

Robert Clark, tenor

Scripture:

Felicia Drever

### 1 Samuel 12: 1-25 • Samuel gives Israel a King

Samuel said to all Israel, “I have listened to you in all that you have said to me, and have set a king over you. See, it is the king who leads you now; I am old and gray, but my sons are with you. I have led you from my youth until this day. Here I am; testify against me before the LORD and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you.” They said, “You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from the hand of anyone.” He said to them, “The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.” And they said, “He is witness.” Samuel said to the people, “The LORD is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your ancestors up out of the land of Egypt. Now therefore take your stand, so that I may enter into judgment with you before the LORD, and I will declare to you all the saving deeds of the LORD that he performed for you and for your ancestors. When Jacob went into Egypt and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your ancestors cried to the LORD and the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought forth your ancestors out of Egypt, and settled them in this place. . . . But when you saw that King Nahash of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, ‘No, but a king shall reign over us,’ though the LORD your God was your king. See, here is the

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from prayer by Jamie Norwich McLennan, *Before the Amen* (2007), 110. Used with permission.

king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; see, the LORD has set a king over you. If you will fear the LORD and serve him and heed his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well; but if you will not heed the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you and your king. ...Only fear the LORD, and serve him faithfully with all your heart; for consider what great things he has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”

This is the witness of Israel.

**Thanks be to God our loving Creator.**

Solo: *Sanctus* (*St. Cecilia Mass*), Charles Gounod Robert Clark, tenor  
(Text: Holy Lord; Holy God of Heavenly Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.)

Sermon: *Samuel, the Cleric who wanted to lead a nation* Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *Come to My Heart* **Voices United 661**

Pastoral Prayers Rev. Karen Bridges

Lord's Prayer **Voices United 916 (A Translation)**

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## Grateful Response

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Invitation to Offering

Offering: *Andante Cantabile* (*Sonatine*), Eugene Hill

Offertory Hymn: *We Give You But Your Own* **Voices United 542**

**We give you but your own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone,  
we give it gratefully.**

Prayer of Gratitude

Closing Hymn: *Lord, Speak to Me* **Voices United 589**

Commissioning

Lead us God.

**Make Jesus' way plain before us.**

Guide our feet and shelter our hearts

**As we seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you,**

**Spirit of Life,**

Amen.

**Thanks be to God.<sup>2</sup>**

Postlude: *Finale Jubilante* (*Five Pieces*), Healey Willan

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<sup>2</sup> Inspired by Psalm 5:8 and Micah 6:8b

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## Music Notes

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Thank you to tenor Robert Clark for sharing his wonderful voice with us this morning. Rob is an accomplished operatic soloist, singing teacher and fitness trainer, and just happens to be the Oilers anthem singer - so who better to lead us in singing the National Anthem this morning!

The solos come from some beautiful writing of the English composer Vaughan Williams, and the French Romantic composer Charles Gounod. "The Call" comes from a set of "Five Mystical Songs" for baritone soloist, chorus and orchestra, but this movement is just for the singer, accompaniment (here organ) and no choir. This movement has been simplified also for congregational singing, and you can find it at VU 628. These words, are by the Welsh-born poet George Herbert (1593-1633). Herbert was a priest in the Church of England, and also served in the English Parliament. This poem was likely inspired by John 14:6 when Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life", and I find these words so profound, we had them sung at our wedding!

The Gounod "Sanctus" comes from the St. Cecilia Mass. Our choir, orchestra, and soloists performed it a few years ago and Rob happened to be our tenor soloist! It is rich in Romanticism and lyrical writing. The work was first premiered in London in 1851, Gounod's British debut. Here the movement, which normally has a choir part also, has been condensed just for tenor soloist.

The instrumental pieces this morning are Canadian. The fugue on O Canada, by the Quebec composer Conrad Letendre (1904-1977), just takes the opening snippet from Calixa Lavallée's melody. Letendre was an organist, teacher, theorist and composer, and was born near Trois Rivières, Que. He gravitated to music as a young blind person, and studied violin, piano and organ with many great Quebec teachers. He taught many of the prominent Quebec organists and composers of our time.

Eugene Hill (1909-1976) was born in Toronto and has held important positions, taught at a university in Ohio, and received a doctorate in music (Toronto). His compositional style is Romantic in nature, probably partially due to the influence of his two main teachers, English composer Eric Thiman and Canadian Healey Willan – the composer of the postlude this morning. Willan has been called "The Dean of Canadian Composers".

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## Cover Image

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Cover image: Francis Cleyn's *Samuel's Reproach to Saul*, c. 1630-1635. Copyright and used with permission from <http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/cleyn-samuels-reproach-to-saul-t05745>. CC-BY-NC-ND 3.0 Unported

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