



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2018 July 8

Celebration of Communion

Pentecost 7

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.



*Called to lead by
following Jesus!*

Friends in Christ

Prelude: *Air on a G String (Suite No. 3)*, J. S. Bach

Mingmei Xu, violin; Jim Findlay, guitar; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, piano

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

We are all called!

Called into being:

we thank you God for infusing us with Life!

Called into following:

we thank you God for Jesus' redeeming Life!

Called into service:

we thank you God for the Spirit's inspiring Life!

Called into questioning:

God, we do not always follow your guidance, or we do so grudgingly and full of resentful.

Called into grace:

we thank you that you forgive our grumbling, clear our hearts and call us anew to Life – new, redeeming and inspiring!

We are called to worship God!

Opening Hymn: *This Is The Day (in English or French)* **More Voices 122**

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Scripture:

John Fleming

1 Samuel 13: 7-14 • A Late Arrival Tempts Saul

Some Hebrews crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people began to slip away from Saul. So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the offerings of well-being." And he offered the burnt offering. As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, Samuel arrived; and Saul went out to meet him and salute him. Samuel said, "What have you done?" Saul replied, "When I saw that the people were slipping away from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines were mustering at Michmash, I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down upon me at Gilgal, and I have not entreated the favor of the LORD'; so I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering." Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which he commanded you. The LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever, but now your kingdom will not continue; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart; and the LORD has appointed him to be ruler over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

This is the witness of Israel.

Thanks be to God our loving Creator.

Sermon: *Saul, the King Who Did Not Want to Lead*

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *Before You Now, O God*

Voices United 511

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 (A Translation)

Grateful Response

Minute for Mission

Sylvia Duffus

Offering: *The Swan*, Camille Saint-Saëns Mingmei Xu, violin; Jim Findlay, guitar

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

Holy God, we bring to you the ordinary things of life

and in bringing them we bring ourselves.

Take our lives and our gifts of money

to do your work in this place and in the world Amen.¹

Sacrament of Holy Communion²

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

The Lord with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

we lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is our duty and delight....we praise your name and join their 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.

¹ *Service Book for Ministers*, 1969, United Church of Canada. Used with Permission.

² Sung parts of today's service are from Marty Haugen's *Now the Feast and Celebration*, GIA Publications, 1990.

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

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, oh God, now and forever, Amen.

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.
Thanks be to God.

Great Amen (sung): ***Amen!*** *(Voices United, p. 933, Haugen)*

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music: *Serenade*, Franz Schubert

Mingmei Xu, violin; Jim Findlay, guitar

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.³

Closing Hymn: *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

Voices United 481

³ From the United Church of Canada's *Service Book*, 1969.

Commissioning

The amazing Redeeming Christ, whose name we bear,

unites us in a community gifted to serve others!

The amazing Creating God, whose image we bear,

unites us in a community seeking vision and direction,

The amazing Inspiring Spirit, whose breath we share,

unites us in a community travelling with call and compassion.

Thanks be to our Triune God!

Amen.

Postlude: *Sonata Concertata*, Nicollò Paganini

Mingmei Xu, violin; Jim Findlay, guitar

Music Notes

Thank you to Jim Findlay and Mingmei Xu for playing this morning and adding to our summertime special music!

There are so many arrangements of the wonderful music by Bach that we are using for the prelude this morning. It is from one of the Orchestral Suites (no. 3). The work, now known as “Air on the G String” is an arrangement of this movement of the suite, originally in D Major, for violin and piano made in the 19th c. The piece attracted this nickname in 1871 when the German violinist August Wilhelmj made this arrangement, changed the key to C Major, and transposed the melody down, so he was able to play the whole piece on only one string of his violin – the G string.

The Swan is another terrific arrangement, which has been made for all kinds of instruments. Here the violin takes the usual cello line, and the guitar plays the piano/orchestral part. It’s a serene melody from “Carnival of the Animals”.

Paganini was an incredible virtuoso violinist. As such, all his music is technically interesting and challenging!

Cover Image

Cover image was taken by Rev. Leigh Sinclair in Paul Kane park.

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