



*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

2012 January 8

Life Passages Sunday



### **Statement of Welcome and Inclusion**

In response to God's call, we, the congregation of Robertson-Wesley United Church declare our commitment to opening our hearts and our church family to all people in our community, regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstance. We recognize that many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore, as a compassionate and caring spiritual community we will stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.

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## Friends in Christ

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*The flowers in the sanctuary are in loving memory of  
Colin Henderson and are placed here by his wife, Margaret and family.*

Prelude: *We Three Kings*, Paul Manz

Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Greeting

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

*(Leader reads plain text; people read **bold text**)*

We are summoned here by our holy God,  
who calls us each by name,  
**and gathers us together in the unity of Jesus Christ.**

From classroom and kitchen and carpool,  
**we are called into God's presence.**

Young and old and middle-aged,  
individuals and families,  
soft-spoken and outspoken,  
**we hear our names being called to join in worship.**

This house of worship  
is a place to pursue God's vision for all people:  
**unity and joy and faith expressed through different gifts.**

Let us worship together!

Hymn: *I Am The Light Of The World*

*Voices United 87*

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

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## Life Passages

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Reception of Members

Marg Thiessen (by Reaffirmation of Baptism)

Hal Thiessen (by Reaffirmation of Baptism)

Congregation's Promise

*(standing)*

Let us pledge to these persons our continued support and care.

**We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you. With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work.**

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## God's Holy Word

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Scripture:

Nancy Heule

Genesis 1:1–5 · Heaven and earth

This is the witness of Israel.

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

Mark 1:4–11 · Baptism of Jesus

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Praise be to God for Christ, the Word made flesh.**

Acts 19:1–7 · Paul's baptizes in the Spirit

This is the witness of the Church.

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

Anthem: *See How Bright is that Star*, Russian carol, arr. Alfred Whitehead

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Good Enough*

Rev. Jim Allan

Silent Reflection

Hymn: *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

**Voices United 99**

Anthem: *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery*,

English Carol, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

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## Grateful Response

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Offering: *What Child is This?*, arr. Norman Johnson

Offering Hymn: *What Child is This?*

(*Voices United* 74, v. 3)

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;**

**come, one and all, to own him.**

**The King of Kings salvation brings;**

**let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**This, this is Christ the King,**

**whom shepherds guard and angels sing;**

**haste, haste to bring him laud,**

**the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

The Peace:

*We greet the people near us with gestures of peace and words such as...*

May the peace of the new-born Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hymn: *Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New*

**More Voices 115**

Benediction

Postlude: *In Dir ist Freude (In Thee is Gladness)*, J. S. Bach

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

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### Music Notes

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So many elements of worship to focus on at this time of year! Epiphany just happened on Friday, so we have an organ prelude, anthems, and a couple of hymns for Epiphany. It is also the “Baptism of Christ” in our lectionary, so we are using a great baptism hymn for that purpose and to honour our “life passages” today. It is still the start of the new year, and the organ postlude is one of Bach’s most famous short organ pieces, which is full of the jubilation of the season.

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### Worship Thanks

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Today’s head usher is Jim Triscott  
Greeters: Jean Triscott, Virginia Letwenuk, Cassie Gatehouse,  
Lois Butler and Elizabeth Triscott  
Scripture Reader: Nancy Heule

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Minister of Spiritual Development: Rev. Jim Allan  
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges  
Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen  
Office Administrator: Tanya Eckenswiller  
Custodian: Brad Campbell

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