



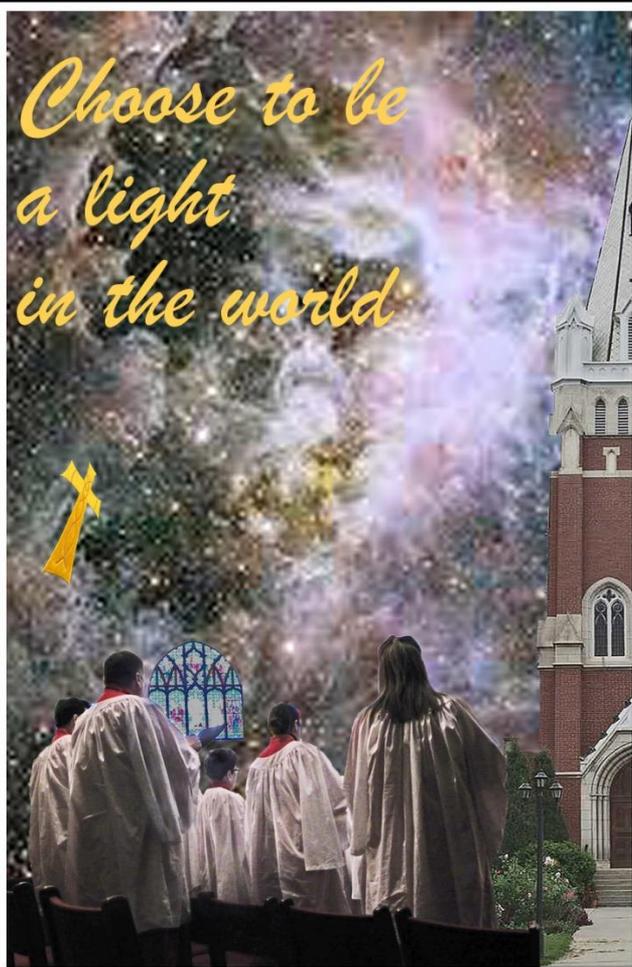
An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2016 Dec 4

Advent 2

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 circumstance. Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore we stand with those who are adversely affected by

*Choose to be
a light
in the world*



Friends in Christ

Prelude: *Variations on Psalm 42 (Freu dich sehr)*, Alfred Fedak

Tammy-Jo Mortensen

Embracing Our Spirit

Opening Prayer

Holy One, in the journey of life, you are with us. Today we seek a special reminder of your presence. May those we meet feel that the light of God surrounds them, and may the light of God inspire all that we do each new day.

God hears us. God hears as we share our dreams, our hopes, and our needs. God discerns our thoughts from afar, and we are thankful. Let us not be discouraged. Let us embrace courage and strength for the journey. Let us give thanks to God, now and always.¹

Processional Hymn: *Confitemini Domino (Come and Fill Our Hearts)*

(Sing in English or Latin) **More Voices 16**

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges & DEAP Pod

God's Holy Word

Introit: *The Lord is My Light*, Frances Allitsen, arr. Linda McKechnie

Choir of Robertson-Wesley & Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Scripture

John Fleming

Isaiah 42: 1-9 • A Light to the Nations

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.²

This is the witness of Israel.

Thanks be to God our loving Creator.

¹ Written by Bill Steadman, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2017, page 30. Adapted and used with permission.

² *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. (1991, Oxford University Press)

Anthem: *Stars*, Ēriks Ešenvalds

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Be intentional...and light the way to transformation*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Sermon Response:

Silence

Sung Response:

**Send out your light, Lord, send your truth to be my guide.
Then let them lead me to the place where you reside.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn: *Many Are the Lightbeams*

Voices United 588

Pastoral Prayers

DEAP Pod

**Sung Response: *May We but Wait*
175**

More Voices

The Congregation is invited to go to the various stations around the sanctuary and light a candle once the members of the DEAP Pod take the light to the stations.

The Lord's Prayer

(Voices United p. 921)

Grateful Response

Seconds for Stewardship:

Pat Stewart & Pat Austin

Offering: *Pastoral Dance-Comfort, Comfort, Now My People*, Darryl Dewalt

Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Offertory Hymn

(More Voices 20 v 4)

**Word true and faithful, hope bringing Spirit,
God of enfolding love:
come in your fullness and grace;
work through our lives for your praise.**

Prayer of Gratitude

Recessional Hymn: *I Am the Light of the World*

Voices United 87

Commissioning:

God who birthed all the blazing galaxies is your eternal home...

**We go now, to live out the image of God in you. We will bear the
fruit of the Spirit and make a home for Christ within. Amen.³**

Postlude: *I Saw Three Ships*, English Carol, arr. Sandra Eithun

Robertson-Wesley

Ringers

³ Written by Robin Wardlaw, *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2005-2006, page 35. Used with permission.

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

Music Notes

The prelude this morning is based on the same tune as the handbells offering piece. The melody was used for centuries as a setting for Psalm 42. The handbell setting is by Darryl Dewalt, the music director at Camrose United Church.

The anthem is by the Latvian contemporary composer Ešēnvalds (b. 1977). The text is from a beautiful poem by Sara Teasdale. It is written for choir and 6 tuned wine glasses or Singing Bowls, but I wasn't sure the sound would come through, so we have both! It is a very mystical text about the natural world: "Alone, in the night on a dark hill, with pines around me spicy and still, and heaven, a heaven full of stars over my head, oh misty red; oh the eons cannot vex or tire. The dome of heaven like a great hill and myriads with beating hearts of fire, heaven full of stars. I know I am honoured to be witness of so much majesty."

The postlude is a great arrangement of the popular carol "I Saw Three Ships". Eithun manages to get such a Celtic feel in this piece, you can almost hear the "hum" of the hull of the ship.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was composed by Jim Triscott Nov 2016.

Worship Thanks

Thank you to the Discernment Envisioning And Policy Pod (DEAP) for their leadership in today's service.

Scripture Reader: John Fleming

Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Vacant
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges
Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen
Office Administrator: Tanya Eckenswiller
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell

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R-W REPORT DECEMBER 4, 2016
Robertson-Wesley United Church

A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE

Washrooms are located by the elevator.

Baby changing facilities are available in washrooms.

If you wish to use it, a children's activity centre is set up in the Chapel with nursing space in adjacent room (Millson Room).

Activity kits for children are available from the ushers.

Large print bulletins, large print hymnbooks, and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

Please do not leave valuables unattended anywhere in the church.

Next Week

December 11, 2016, 10:30 am

Advent 3

White Gift Sunday

Children & Youth: Children start in the sanctuary, then go to Kids' Church; Youth meet in the youth room.

Scripture:

- Esther 4: 1-17 Esther agrees to help the Jewish people

Sermon: *Stand together... no matter the cost*

We hear the story of Esther and her decision to stand with her people even though it goes against her husband. She will not stand idly by and let her people be destroyed. Instead she protests and stands up for what is right. Difficult choices require courage and strength and this comes when we do it together.

Music: Cantilon Children's Choir; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

After worship: All are invited to gather in the Memorial Hall for fellowship and refreshments.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Garden Patch - Grandparents, parents, youth and adults are encouraged to volunteer Sunday mornings on a regular rotational basis. Sign-up sheet is posted in Memorial Hall. Sign up today!

Candle Team – We are seeking 1 more person to help with the polishing of candle sticks and then the setting up of the extra candles for Lessons and Carols Dec 11 and for the last 2 services on Christmas Eve. Please let Karen Bridges know if you are able to help.

Thank you- Rudolph's Resale was a great success this year. We raised **\$3,650** from the sale of donated items and **\$415** from the baking. A big thank-you goes to the staff and the dedicated volunteers for their many hours of work.

Design/Layout Coordinator needed for Robertson-Wesley quarterly Newsletter, "Between the Aisles"

Are you into Graphic Design and Arts? Would you be interested in contributing to the Robertson-Wesley community in a fun and interesting way? The editorial board and communications team is looking for a person who is interested in design and graphics, who would be willing to take on the task of doing layout for "Between the Aisles". The person would need access to and a working knowledge of Microsoft Publisher. The newsletter comes out every 3 months or so, so the time commitment is a few hours, four times per year. Interested? Contact Tammy-Jo music@rwuc.org or 780-482-1587.

R-W News & Notes.

WANTED: FAX MACHINE

The office fax machine is no longer working. If you have a fax machine (any brand/type) that you would like to donate, please contact Tanya in the office: mail@rwuc.org or 780-482-1587 Ext 221.

COUNT UP TO CHRISTMAS

The Robertson-Wesley United Church Advent Calendar

The community is invited to post or send us their best selfies in front of our manger on our facebook page or via twitter. There will be a sign hung from our manger starting on Dec 1 till Dec 25. We challenge groups and individuals to create their best manger scene at the stable in front of the church. The added challenge is that we want the number of characters and participants to match the number of the day. So on Dec 10th we want a photo with 10 people, on Dec 3, 3 people etc. We want at least 3 pictures each day! Please send your photos to mail@rwuc.org. Let's have some fun. Be creative and show us what you've got!!

ADVENT RECITAL SERIES

Robertson-Wesley is hosting a noon-hour Advent concert series for the four Thursdays in **December**. The concerts will run from 12:10-12:50 and admission is by freewill offering. Next up:

Dec. 8 – Joel Gray, trumpet and Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ & piano

Dec. 15 – Warren Mack, organ

Dec. 22 – Sandy Adams, harpsichord and Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

ARTS COLLECTIVE- No Room at the Inn

Facilitated by Chaka Zinyemba. Tuesday, December 6 & 13. 6-9 pm

Because we just want to sip cocoa and have a good time while we watch livestock, angels, and wise men adore the baby Jesus, we tend to ignore

the true conditions of the Messiah's birth. We often choose to view those we love in a similar fashion, focusing on the what makes them shine rather than whatever has tried to dim their lights. Unfortunately, it can be easier for many of us to celebrate and give to others than it is for us to celebrate or give to ourselves. This is especially true if we come from toxic backgrounds or feel like we do not belong.

Register online or call the office! <http://www.rwuc.org/sacregister.html>

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Lessons and Carols takes place at Robertson-Wesley on **Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.** An afternoon of traditional congregational carols, scripture readings and music sung by the Choir of Robertson-Wesley, directed by Tammy-Jo Mortensen and accompanied by Belinda Chiang. The gentle beauty of the dissipating winter light combined with the music, candles and the Christmas story creates a magical afternoon. Please come and invite your friends and neighbours to a favourite tradition for many. No charge, freewill offering.

GOD ON TAP

Young adults ages 18-45ish are invited to join Herman and Karen for some spiritual discussion over pints or beverages. We will meet at the Bru Coffee and Beer House (11965 Jasper Ave - Pearl Tower.) **Monday, December 12 from 7 pm - 9 pm.** Your friends are welcome to come.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Tuesday, December 13 beginning at 1:30 pm

Tony Jansen will enthrall us with his Africa: Flora and Fauna presentation. Meeting at 1:30 which will include our usual Christmas rituals. **All are welcome.** M&S donations happily accepted. Refreshments served. Contact Janet M Clark if questions 780-483-4261.

LIVE NATIVITY SCENE & BBQ AT ROBERTSON-WESLEY

Saturday, December 17, from 4-5:30 pm

Robertson-Wesley invites the whole community to our Live Nativity Scene this Christmas. Young and old alike, as well as your pets, will have an opportunity to interact with the nativity characters and even become some of the characters, if desired. We will supply costumes (bring along your cameras for photos), and everyone can sing along with carolers. This year we will be having an outside BBQ, so come have some hot food, cozy up to the fire, and meet your neighbours, while listening to stories and roasting marshmallows.

This all-age event is on the front lawn of the church. Stop by with your family, friends, and neighbours for an evening of festivities, treats, and hot chocolate!

There is no admission charge, but we will be accepting donations of mittens, gloves, socks, toiletries, or non-perishable food Bissell Centre.

COMING SOON TO A CHURCH NEAR YOU!

If you've been to the choir cabarets, you're going to love what's coming this year! A different twist on the evening, but a fun time to listen to some great music. Stay tuned for more info. Save the date – **Saturday, Feb. 4!**

STEWARDSHIP SPEAKER BREAKFAST

AWARD WINNING PLAYWRIGHT VERN THIESSEN

Vern Thiessen is one of Canada's most produced playwrights. SHAKESPEARE'S WILL, APPLE, EINSTEIN'S GIFT, VIMY, and BIRD BRAIN all premiered in Edmonton, and have gone on to hundreds of productions in Canada, the US, the UK, Europe, China, Australia and New Zealand.

Vern is the winner of the Dora, Sterling, and Carol Bolt awards for Outstanding New Play. He is also the recipient of the City of Edmonton Arts Achievement Award, the University of Alberta Alumni Award, and the Governor General's Award for Drama, Canada's highest honour for playwriting. He was recently nominated for a City of Edmonton Award for Outstanding Artistic Leadership

After seven years living and working in New York City, Vern returned to Edmonton in 2014 to become Artistic Director of Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre. He is married to best-selling novelist Susie Moloney.

The Breakfast is presented by the Robertson-Wesley Stewardship Committee at 10:00 am on Saturday, January 21, 2017.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased today after worship in Memorial Hall. Tickets can also be purchased from Robertson-Wesley Stewardship Committee members, and through the church office during regular office hours. Contact the office for more information.



OBSERVER RENEWAL

It's time to renew your Observer subscription. New subscriptions are also welcome! The Observer is a great resource for spiritual development as well as a way to keep up with what is happening in the United Church. The cost is \$25.00 for one year (11 issues, July and August is combined). Renewals and subscriptions can be handed in to the church office. Please make your cheques payable to Robertson-Wesley United Church with Observer noted in the memo section of the cheque. Subscription deadline is **Dec 11**. Email or phone the church office if you have any questions.

STEWARDSHIP 2017 UPDATE

We're on our way to the goal of 100 pledges for 2017. Thank you to those who have pledged. So far we have received 55. Please consider completing a pledge form if you haven't done so.

Consider joining PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) to make monthly payments. ***Thank you for your financial support!***

GROCERY CARDS- Makes a great Christmas Gift!

Everyone buys groceries! Pay for your groceries with grocery cards purchased through Robertson-Wesley United Church and the church will receive between 4% - 8% of the proceeds. Gift cards are available in various denominations and are for sale after worship in Memorial Hall.

ANNUAL REPORT

The deadline for reports from the committees of the church is **Sunday, Jan 8, 2017**. Send your information to mail@rwuc.org with “2016 Annual Report Submission” in the subject line.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statements to Nov 30, 2016 are available in Memorial Hall for the people who have not provided email addresses to the church. If you do have an email address, please consider giving it to the office so we can send your statements electronically.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Dec 04	R-W Music Society AGM– Room 11	11:30 am
Mon Dec 05	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tue Dec 06	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:00 pm
	Arts Collective with Chaka– Art Studio	6:00 pm
	Joint Search ctte– Library	7:30 pm
Wed Dec 07	Canterbury service– offsite	10:30 am
	Choir of R-W– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Dec 08	Advent Recital Series– Sanctuary	12:10 pm
	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
Sat Dec 10	Choral Morphosis Rehearsal– Lower Hall	10:00 am
	Christmas Craft Class– Memorial Hall	1:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Dec 11	Lessons & Carols– Sanctuary	4:00 pm
	Soul OUTing– Memorial Hall/Chapel	7:00 pm
Mon Dec 12	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	7:00 pm
	God on Tap– offsite	7:00 pm
Tue Dec 13	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:00 pm
	United Church Women– Memorial Hall	1:30 pm
	Arts Collective with William B.– Art Studio	6:00 pm
Wed Dec 14	R-W Men’s Group– offsite	9:30 am
Thu Dec 15	Advent Recital Series– Sanctuary	12:10 pm
Sat Dec 17	Live Nativity– West side entrance	4:00 pm

DECEMBER 11 IS WHITE GIFT SUNDAY!

This year the Bissell Centre has made a few minor changes. Rather than request a wide assortment of individual items as we have done in the past, we simplified our Wish List into “Men’s Stockings”, “Women’s Stockings”, and general presents for Infants, Children and Teens. These gifts will be collected and delivered to the Bissell Centre on Sunday Dec 11th, 2016. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Women’s Stocking

- Small Sweets/ Chocolates/ Gum
- Shampoo/ Shower Gel/ Lotions / Razors
- Cosmetics (Mascara, Lip Balm, Eye Shadow)
- Small Perfume/ Body Spray
- Hand Warmers
- Thermal/ Wool Socks
- Travel Mug with Hot Chocolate Pack
- Bus Tickets
- Coffee Gift Card
- NEW underwear
- Gloves/Toques/Scarves

Men’s Stocking

- Small Sweets/ Chocolates/ Gum
- Razor/ Shaving Cream
- Body Wash/ Shampoo
- New Underwear
- Gloves/Toques/Scarves
- Hand Warmers
- Thermal/ Wool Socks
- Deck of Cards
- Travel Mug with Hot Chocolate Pack
- Bus Tickets
- Coffee Gift Card



• **Infant (0-2):** Clothes, Rattles, Plush Toys, Musical Toys

• **Children (3-11):** Coloring Books, Puzzles, Lego, Cars & Trucks, Barbies, Dolls, Sesame Street Toys, Children's Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Bubble Bath

• **Teens:** Remote Control Vehicles, Craft or Science Sets, Hand Held Electronic Games, Sporting Goods (Soccer/ Footballs). Cosmetics (Nail Polish, Hair Accessories, Makeup), Hoodies, Gift Cards