

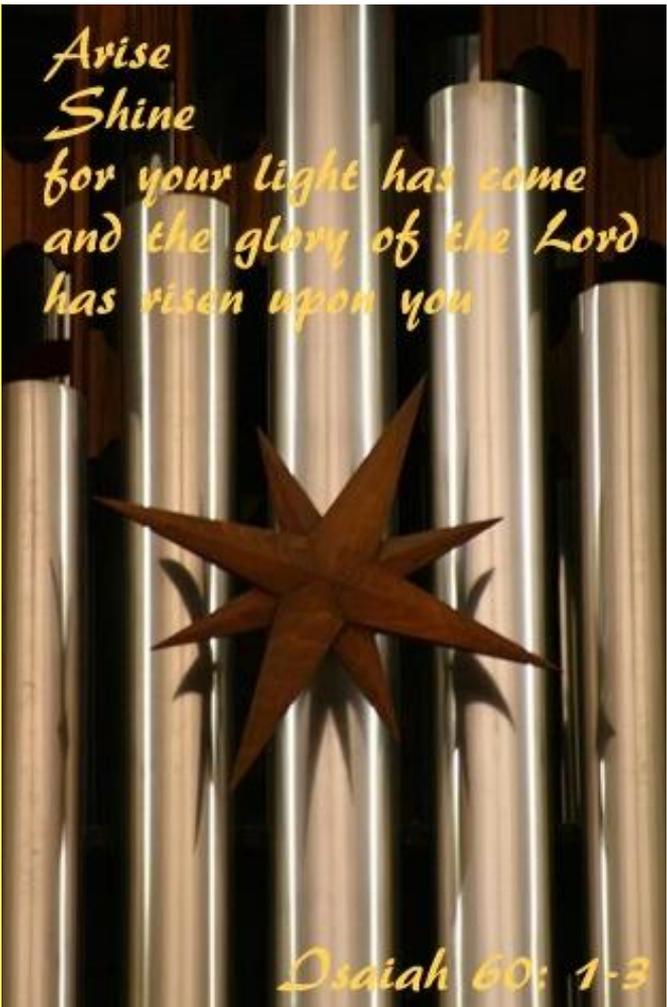


*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

2017 Jan 1

Christmas 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



*Arise  
Shine  
for your light has come  
and the glory of the Lord  
has risen upon you*

*Isaiah 60: 1-3*

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## Friends in Christ

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Prelude: *Canticle of Joy (Christmas Cantata)*, J. S. Bach

Belinda Chiang, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Opening Prayer

The circle of the year has turned again.

**Ending and beginnings. Birth and death. Changes and transitions.**

The circle of the year has turned again.

**But in all of the change, there is one sure thing—**

**God is present.**

God is present.

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

Your presence is constant, God. We know you are here. But, sometimes, it's hard. Sometimes, in the midst of chaos, we don't know what to do, or to say, or to be.

**Help us please. Help us to stop and listen. Help us to stop and look. Help us to be your people. Now and always.<sup>1</sup>**

Processional Hymn: *The First Nowell*

*Voices United 91*

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

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## God's Holy Word

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Scripture

Susan Wirtenan

Matthew 2: 1-12 • King Herod

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and then knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2017, page 37. Used with permission.

gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.<sup>2</sup>

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Thanks be to God for Christ, the word made flesh.**

Sermon: *Imagine...it was foreigners who saw Christ first.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery*

**Voices United 93**

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

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### Grateful Response

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Offering: *Festival of Praise*, Johnston

Offertory Hymn (*Voices United* 68 words adapted by Warren Mack )

**Then haste we in bringing our gratitude singing**

**in love in these Christmas days.**

**All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble**

**your God comes, give thanks always.**

Prayer of Gratitude

Closing Hymn: *As with Gladness Men of Old*

**Voices United 81**

Commissioning:

On the first Sunday of a new year,

**we have worshipped.**

Depart in joy,

**we have been renewed in grace.**

May the light of the world, our Saviour, lead you.

**We leave with courage to follow. Amen!**<sup>3</sup>

Postlude: *In Dir Ist Freude*, 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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Thanks to Belinda Chiang for playing this morning, while Tammy-Jo is off this weekend. Some wonderful Bach to start the new year – first an arrangement from the Christmas Cantata. This is joyful music for the season of Christmas! The postlude is from Bach's *Orgelbüchlein*, and is a piece specifically for New Year's Day. The translation of the title is: "In

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

<sup>3</sup> Written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2017, page 38. Used with permission.

Thee is Gladness". Bach uses a joyful pedal ostinato (repeated pattern) throughout the piece to really give it a wonderful celebratory feeling!

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### Cover Image

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Cover image: This picture was taken by Albert deVos of the star on the organ of Robertson-Wesley United Church 2016.

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### Worship Thanks

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Scripture Reader: Susan Wirtenan

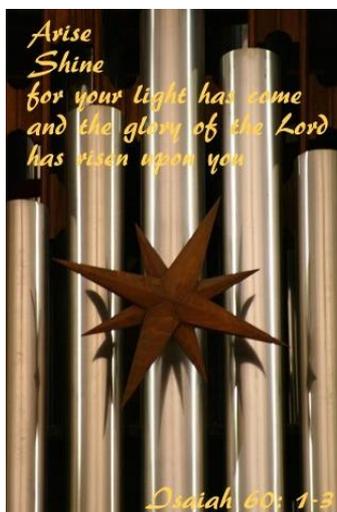
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Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Vacant  
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges  
Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen  
Office Administrator: Tanya Eckenswiller  
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**R-W REPORT JANUARY 1, 2017**  
**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**

**January 8, 2016, 10:30 am**

**Epiphany 1**

**Communion**

**Scripture:**

- Matt 2: 13-23 Escape to Egypt

**Sermon: *Starting fresh...a dream or a nightmare?***

For Joseph, his dreams which fore tell of the future portray him living his worst nightmare. The dream is an urgent message to go and for his new family to flee. Mary, Joseph and Jesus seek refuge in Egypt and if that wasn't enough, he is then told to go to Nazareth. When will relief come? Church is a place of sanctuary, a place of refuge, a place of warmth and security, a place of welcome and belonging. How will we be a place of sanctuary and refuge to all people? How will we transform our brokenness and live into the future?

**Music:** Choir of Robertson-Wesley; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

***Garden Patch & Kid's Church-*** Grandparents, parents, youth and adults are encouraged to volunteer Sunday mornings on a regular rotational basis. More details are on the sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall. Sign up today!

***Communion Servers:*** Our next Communion, by Intinction, is **Sunday, Jan 8**. Servers are needed for this Communion. If you are able to serve please sign up on the sheet in Memorial Hall.

***Magic Pantry***- Responding to the need in our own neighbourhood, R-W provides a free bag lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. This outreach program relies on volunteers to be available at the door from 12 pm to 1pm with a bag lunch ready for people that come to the door. This program is a great way to connect and provide outreach in the community.

### **A Challenge from Your Nominating Committee-**

The Nominations committee is seeking suggestions for people to fill some key leadership roles in our congregation.

We are seeking a **Treasurer, an in-coming chair of the board, and 2 Presbytery Reps.** We are also looking for a **Chair person for the worship committee and a Mission and Outreach Pod Coordinator.**

Please let the committee know if you are interested in any of these positions or have a suggestion of someone in our midst who you think has the skills and gifts to be part of the leadership team. Job descriptions can be found on the website for more information about what is involved.

Your Nominating committee includes, Karen Hansen, Garnet Thomas, Ted Blezard, John Fleming, Ron Soans.

### **R-W News & Notes.**

#### **ANNUAL REPORT**

The deadline for reports from the committees of the church is **Sunday, Jan 8, 2017.** Send your information to [mail@rwuc.org](mailto: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.

#### **JOINT SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The search for a Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development continues: we will be holding Skype interviews this week, after which candidates will be selected for face-to-face interviews early in the new year. We thank you for your continued prayers throughout this process!

#### **ARTS COLLECTIVE with Tonya Rae Chrystian**

**En Root: acting authentic, grounded in place**

**January 9 – March 20, 2017**

**Mondays 6:00 - 9:00 pm**

Place, roots, spiritual belonging. This collective will give you the opportunity to try acting in a supportive and fun environment; all experience levels are welcome! Together we will play with basic acting

techniques and how acting can connect us with community, spirituality and place.

Tonya Rae Chrystian is a dramatist trained at the University of Alberta and l'École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris, France; she is co-artistic director of mindhive collective and works in all facets of theatre and drama including academia, directing, performing, and dramaturgy. With a particular interest in theatre as a meeting place of language, knowledge, and bodies, Tonya approaches her discipline as a medium to confront silence and address fear, but one that requires a ceaseless desire to search: What is it about? How can it go further?

Register for the Collective on line: <http://www.rwuc.org/sacregister.html> or through the church office.

### STEWARDSHIP SPEAKER BREAKFAST

With 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. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased today after worship in Memorial Hall. and through the church office during regular office hours. Contact the office for more information.

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**A Budget Information Session** will be held Sunday, **February 5, 2017.**

**The Annual General Meeting** of the Robertson-Wesley congregation will take place in Memorial Hall after the service on **February 12, 2017.**

Printed copies of the Annual Report will be available on **Jan 29, 2017.**

Annual Reports are due **Jan 8, 2017.**

### TRANSPORATION & PARKING SURVEY

The R-W Board and Property Committee are looking at the future of Robertson-Wesley in the midst of a rapidly changing neighbourhood. We ask that you consider filling out the form and returning it to the office. Your feedback is greatly appreciated, and your voice will help shape how the church develops within the community.

The survey can be found in the brochure racks.

### **CHOIR CABARET WINE & CHEESE NIGHT**

We're switching it up this year for a similar but slightly different event! We promise the same kind of entertaining evening though! Come join us for some "jazz licks and hot picks" wine & cheese night on Saturday, Feb. 4, where Memorial Hall will be turned into a "Piano/Wine Bar". Tickets on sale today after the service.

### **GROCERY CARDS**

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. Buy a \$100 gift card and you will get \$100 worth of groceries! We have a limited supply of gift cards available for sale after worship in Memorial Hall.

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Tue Jan 03	DEAP Pod– Club Room	10:00 am
	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
Wed Jan 04	Canterbury Service– offsite	10:30 am
	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Jan 05	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sun Jan 08	Soul OUTing– Chapel	7:00 pm
Mon Jan 09	Arts Collective; En Root– Art studio	6:00 pm
Tue Jan 10	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	United Church Women– Memorial Hall	1:30 pm
	Property cte– Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Jan 11	R-W Men's Group– Memorial Hall	9:30 am
	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Thu Jan 12	God on Tap– offsite	7:00 pm
Sat Jan 14	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am
	Community Dinner– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	R-W Youth Group– Lower Hall, Sanctuary	7:00 pm

### **HOLIDAY HOURS**

**The office is closed over the holidays from Dec 24 to Jan 2, 2017.  
Regular hours resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.**

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