



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 Jan 8

Sacrament of Communion

Epiphany

Welcome and Inclusion
We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of economic circumstance, sexual orientation, age, gender, differing abilities, or ethnicity. Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore we stand with those who are adversely affected by



**Rejoice in the
courage
that sets us free!**

- Keri K. Wehlander

Friends in Christ

*The flowers in the sanctuary are in loving memory of **Belva and Brian Piercy** and are placed here by **Lorna and Louis Berlinguette** and family.*

Prelude: *Now the Silence*, Carl F. Schalk

Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

Look up; look way up. See the brilliant stars overhead.

We know that God offers us guidance for the journey.

Look ahead; look a long way ahead. See the path that leads to the future.

We know that God has a dream for that future.

Look within; look deeply within yourself. See the gift of God's Spirit shared for us all.

We know that God is working within us and among us.

Today we begin a new journey in a new year.

Thanks be to God. Let us worship God.¹

Processional Hymn: *Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary*

More Voices 18

Coming Into God's Presence

Introit: *I Wonder as I Wander*, Appalachian Carol, arr. Robin King

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Prayer of Confession:

God of the ages, we confess that we are often reluctant to step out into the new and the untried. We like to stick with the old and the familiar, even when we know we can find grace and peace in new ways. Forgive us. Encourage us as we try new ways of being your disciples, as individuals, and as community. Amen.²

Sung words of Assurance:

Voices United 626

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."**

**I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.**

God's Holy Word

Scripture

Maria Smyth

¹ Written by Bill Steadman, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2017, page 38. Used with permission.

² Written by Beth W Johnston, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2017, page 39. Used with permission.

Matthew 2: 13-23 • Escape to Egypt

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.” When Herod died an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”³

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *Coventry Carol*, 15th c., arr. Martin Shaw Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Starting fresh...a dream or a nightmare?* Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Now the Silence, Now the Peace* **Voices United 475**

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Offering: *The Three Kings*, Wilbur Held

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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*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.*

³ *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version.* (1991, Oxford University Press)

In thanks and praise to God, whose love for us is mirrored in the lives of all who have ever struggled to live faithfully; as an expression of our love for God and all our sisters and brothers – young and old, rich and poor – and in remembrance of all the meals Jesus shared with saints and sinners, we invite all to feast in joy and harmony.

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Christ is present here.

The Spirit is among us.

Let us give thanks to God.

In memory and in hope.

Holy God of light and love by the light of your promise you guide your people across the desert and through the night. In the light of your presence we behold your glory and offer you our gifts. Through the light of your peace you claim us as your beloved, and joy is our banquet. We give you thanks that you make manifest your glory: lighting the way for every pilgrim, gifting the earth with the Prince of Peace, setting a table for all who hunger. And so it is that we sing your praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy (*sung*): (*More Voices*, p. 203, Kingsfold)

O holy, holy holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always.

As we gather at this table, we remember that on the night before he died, Jesus had supper with his friends. He took a loaf of bread, thanked you as we have thanked you, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me." Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: "Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood. Each time you drink from this cup, remember me."

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, as we break bread and share the cup, giving thanks for your love in Jesus, the Christ. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labour. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. This we remember; this we believe:

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*): (More Voices, p. 204, Kingsfold)

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

Holy God, pour your Spirit on us, that we may know Christ in the breaking of bread, and that in word and deed, we may be channels of your love, peace, and justice in the world.

Great Amen (*sung*): (More Voices, p. 205, Kingsfold)

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music: *Strengthen for Service, Lord*, Austin C. Lovelace

Prayer of Rededication

Life-giving God, may we, who share Christ's body, live his risen life; we who drink his cup, bring new life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and all creation will live to praise your name. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: *In the Darkness Shines the Splendour* **Voices United**
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Commissioning:

All you who search: you have been found.

All you who have felt ignored or rejected: you are worthy.

All you who have borne gifts to the Risen One: you are blessed.

And we who have been changed go home by another way.⁴

Postlude: *Postlude on Kingsfold*, David Lasky

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

Music Notes

Carols are not just for Christmas! There have been carols written for all times of the year. Today we share an Appalachian carol that was collected by John Jacob Niles in 1933. It tells more of the story of Jesus, beyond his birth. We also have another carol – the famous Coventry carol. It's not your typical "carol" as we think of it today, but rather tells some of the hard

⁴ Written by Robin Wardlaw, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2017, page 39. Used with permission.

stuff – like our scripture passage today – about Herod ordering the young children to be killed. But, it is told as a lullaby, about the poor youngling, but in a minor key to foreshadow the rest of the story.

Cover Image

Cover image: Picture taken by Rev. Karen Bridges

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R-W REPORT JANUARY 8, 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 15, 2016, 10:30 am
Epiphany 2, Life Passages

Scripture:

- Matt 3: 1-17 John the Baptist

Sermon: *The promise of something new*

Enough with the guilt, enough with the justification speeches, enough with the self-deprecating comments. It's time to accept that you are an essential part of this world, even if you don't think you are worthy, GOD DOES. When we are baptized, we are claimed by God in the new life of Christ. We are being called to repent, but not in the way you have been led to believe. Come, for I promise you something new.

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:

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 is a great way to connect and provide outreach in the community.

A Challenge from Your Nominating Committee-We are seeking an **Incoming Chair of the Board, Treasurer, 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 **TODAY! Sunday, Jan 8, 2017**. Send your information to mail@rwuc.org with “2016 Annual Report Submission” in the subject line.

2016 OFFERINGS/TAX RECEIPTS

Offerings that require a tax receipt for 2016 must be:

- (a) dated December 31, 2016 (if paid by cheque) and
- (b) received by Robertson-Wesley to deposit by Jan. 8, 2017.

MEDITATION GROUP

Meditation has been important in many spiritual traditions through the centuries. Western medicine now has become very interested in the health benefits meditation and mindfulness seem to promote. If you are a committed meditator or would like to learn how to meditate, come **Sunday mornings before the service from 10:00 am to 10:25 am** in room 11 for a group meditation session. See for yourself how this technique can improve your health - mind, body and soul.”

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. Register for the Collective online:

<http://www.rwuc.org/sacregister.html> or through the church office.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN AGM

Tuesday, January 10 at 12:00 pm, Memorial Hall

UCW has its AGM on Tuesday. Main topic: how to allocate the money we have raised this year. We will also have time for socializing! RSVP

to Janet M Clark (780-483-4261). UCW have to order from Food For Thought. Cost is \$8 at the door.

STEWARDSHIP SPEAKER BREAKFAST

With Award Winning Playwright VERN THIESSEN

Saturday, January 21, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

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

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 today! **Jan 8, 2017.**

GAMES NIGHT

Saturday Jan 28, 2017 6-10 PM

Children, youth, adults and seniors are invited to come to RWUC for a night of games. There will be lots of options: board games; cards; wide games; get to know you games; trivia and quiz games. Bring your friends and let's have some fun. Arrive when you can and leave when you need to. Bring a snack to share. Hosted by the Family Ministries Committee.

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 "Jazz/Wine Bar".

Tickets \$15 on sale today after the service and available from the office.

R-W BOOK CLUB

Nancy Turner's book Earth's Blanket is out of print, and will be re-printed in 2017. Readers will be notified when the book is available again, along with a date for discussion.

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.

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

Sun Jan 08	Soul OUTing– Chapel	7:00 pm
Mon Jan 09	Arts Collective; En Root– Art studio	6:00 pm
Tue Jan 10	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	United Church Women– Memorial Hall	1:30 pm
	Property ctte– 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
	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Jan 12	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Mon Jan 16	Arts Collective; En Root– Art studio	6:00 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
Tue Jan 17	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	R-W Board– Room 11	7:00 pm
Sat Jan 21	Stewardship Breakfast– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am

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Office hours: Tues. – Fri. 8:30 am to noon & 1 pm – 4:30 pm