



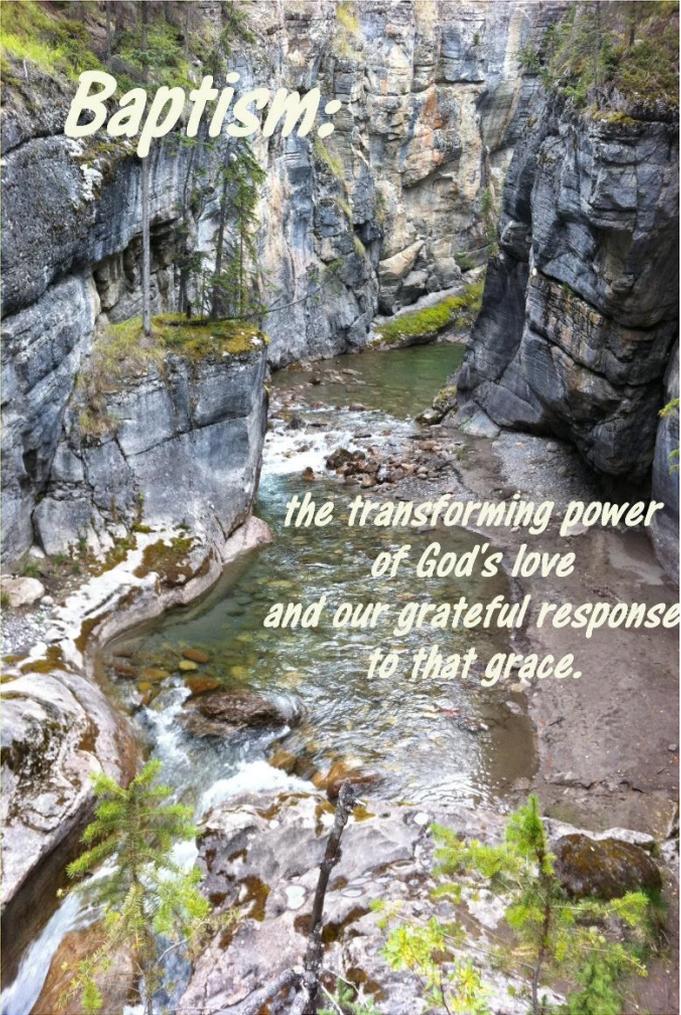
*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

2017 Jan 15

Epiphany 2

Welcome and  
Inclusion

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



*Baptism:*

*the transforming power  
of God's love  
and our grateful response  
to that grace.*

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*Friends in Christ*

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*The flowers in the sanctuary are in loving memory of Margaret and Harold Newman and are placed here by Ray and Gail Barnes and family.*

Prelude: *Adagio*, Henry G. Ley

Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

God calls us to open our eyes.

**To see our ministry and our call.**

God calls us to open our lives.

**To live our ministry and our call.**

God calls us to open ourselves.

**To be our ministry and our call.**

So come, all people of the world, come followers of Christ.

**We come to worship our God!**<sup>1</sup>

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

*More Voices*

115

Coming Into God's Presence

Prayer of Confession:

**God who speaks in quiet whispers, loud thunder, and the voices of others, help us to hear your call. Forgive our hesitancy to listen when you speak. Open our ears and our hearts to heed your call. Challenge us to respond faithfully, we pray. Amen.**<sup>2</sup>

Sung words of Assurance:

*Voices United 626*

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give;  
the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live."**

**I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.**

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*God's Holy Word*

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Introit: *Prayer of King Henry VI*, Henry G. Ley

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

(Text: Lord Jesus Christ, who created, redeemed, and preordained me to be this that I am, you know what you wish to do with me; in accordance with your will, with mercy. Amen.)

Scriptures:

Kathleen Gowers

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2004-2005, page 30. Adapted and used with permission.

<sup>2</sup> Written by Laura J. Turnbull, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2003-2004, page 36. Used with permission.

## Matthew 3: 1-17 • John the Baptist

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."<sup>3</sup>

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *River in Judea*, Marcus, Feldman & Leavitt      Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *The promise of something new*      Rev. Karen Bridges

Recommitment: *A New Creed*      **Voices United 918**

Hymn: *Let My Spirit Always Sing*      **More Voices 83**

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

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*Grateful Response*

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Offering: *Prayer*, Mark Himmelman

Prayer of Gratitude:

*Excerpt from A Song of Faith*

**In grateful response to God's abundant love,  
we bear in mind our integral connection  
to the earth and one another;  
we participate in God's work of healing and mending creation. Amen.**

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

Commissioning:

Let us go from this place reassured that we are  
**God's chosen ones, with whom God is well pleased.**

Let us go restored in our knowledge  
**that we are beloved.**

**Let us go transformed by God's love and acceptance. Amen.<sup>4</sup>**

Postlude: *Toccata in F*, Johann  
Pachelbel

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

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### Music Notes

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English organist and composer Henry G. Ley (1887-1962) began his career as a chorister at St. George's, Windsor Chapel in England. He held several positions including as organist at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford and was professor of organ at the Royal College of Music. The introit we sing today is likely his most popular piece. Also known as the "Founders Prayer" this short piece is sung regularly at King's College, Cambridge (founder was King Henry VI).

The gospel-style setting of the text "River in Judea" is suitable for many occasions, but today it is chosen for the link to the river in Jordan where Jesus was baptized. The river that runs freely is also a metaphor for our salvation found in Jesus.

Mark Himmelman is a native of Nova Scotia, and has held positions in Nova Scotia, PEI and Ontario. He has composed several works for organ.

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### Cover Image

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Cover image: This picture taken by Karen Bridges in Jasper Sept 17, 2011.

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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  
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<sup>4</sup> Written by Kate Crawford, *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2003-2004, page 40. Used with permission.

**R-W REPORT JANUARY 15, 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 22, 2016, 10:30 am**

**Epiphany 3**

**Scripture:**

- Matt 4: 1-17 Temptation, and the start of Jesus's Ministry

**Sermon: *Recognize and Respond***

What is ministry? As we explore the beginning moments of Jesus call to ministry we too are called to reflect, recognize and respond to our call. We will be tempted; tempted to ignore the call, tempted to give in to our desires for pleasure sake, and for this we shall repent. There is no time to waste, and yet perhaps if we did waste a moment with God we just might find a different path, a path of fulfillment, a path bathed in light.

**Music:** Choir of Robertson-Wesley; Robertson-Wesley Ringers

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

**Thank you**

Together we raised **\$1,098.47 for Mission & Service**. Thank you for generously supporting the sale of homemade preserves and baking. Your enthusiasm leaves me humbled and happy. May Blessings of a New Year abound in all that you do. *-Donna Krucik*

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

***Transportation for Refugees***— Our Syrian refugee family, the Al Masouds, occasionally need transportation to medical appointments, English classes etc. Until they are able to drive themselves, we need some volunteer drivers. Please leave your name and number at the R-W office.

***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 **2 Presbytery Reps** and an **In-Coming Chair of the Board, Treasurer, Chair of the Worship committee.**

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 Garnet Thomas, Ted Blezard, John Fleming, Ron Soans.

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

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

Our search for a Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development continues, as we hold face-to-face interviews this month. We are hopeful that a new minister will soon join Rev. Karen in team ministry here at R-W!

#### **BETWEEN THE AISLES**

Between the Aisles quarterly publication. Deadline for submissions is **Feb 5**. Please forward your stories, notices, or musings to: [rwucnews@gmail.com](mailto:rwucnews@gmail.com). Please consider sending us your writing. It is good for the soul!

#### **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

## KOINONIA

**Sunday, January 22:** Potluck supper at 5:30 pm,  
worship to follow at approximately 7:00 pm.

**Theme:** Are you worn out from holidays?

This service will emphasize peaceful mediation and music, being mindful and present to each other. Key words are light, hands, hearts, Jesus, stars, Milky Way, Eden.

Bring a pot luck item, but if you forget- please come anyway! Your presence is what matters.

## 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

You've heard those choristers in their red and white robes on Sunday, but come hear another side of the choir – on a Saturday night! Join us for some “jazz licks and hot picks” wine & cheese night on **Saturday, Feb. 4.** Memorial Hall will be turned into a “Jazz/Wine Bar”. Tickets are \$15 and are on sale today after the service and available from the office.

## 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.

## 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.**

## 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

Mon Jan 16	Arts Collective; En Root– Room 11	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
Wed Jan 18	Joint Search Committee– Club Room	9:00 am
	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Jan 19	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
	Joint Search Committee– Library	7:30 pm
Sat Jan 21	Stewardship Breakfast– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am
	Youth Group – Progressive Dinner	6:00 pm

### ON THE HORIZON

Sun Jan 22	Meditation– Room 11	10:00 am
	Koinonia– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Mon Jan 23	Arts Collective; En Root– Room 11	6:00 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
	Ministry & Personnel– Club Room	7:30 pm
Tue Jan 24	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
Wed Jan 25	R-W Flower Group– Club Room	9:30 am
	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Sat Jan 28	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am
	Games Night– Main floor	6:00 pm

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