



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 Jan 22

Epiphany 3

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

Temptation?



**or a moment well spent
with God?**

Friends in Christ

The first bouquet of flowers in the sanctuary are in loving memory of Jim Ritchie. They are placed here by his friend, Lori Haracsi.

The second bouquet of flowers in the sanctuary are placed here by Shirley Campbell-Pearse in loving memory of her little son, Ricky Coleman Campbell, her sister, Marguerite Harmon, her mother and father, Nita and Coleman Latham.

Prelude: *Bells Still are Chiming and Calling*, John Hooper

Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

I have waited for God to rescue me, to hear my cry for help.

God did not disappoint me.

God pulled me out of the snowbank in which I was stuck.

God melted the ice beneath my feet.

I will sing a new song that I have composed on the spot.

I will sing a story of what God has done.

Blessed are those who trust in God.¹

Processional Hymn: *And on This Path*

More Voices

8

Coming Into God's Presence

Introit: *Arise, Shine for Your Light Has Come*, Hal H. Hopson

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, we confess: the times when we ignore your presence; the times when we try to do it all on our own; the times when we try to exclude others from your love; the ways in which we close our ears and hearts to the Good News. Forgive us.

Restore us. Open us to the News that could change our lives and the world. 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

¹ Written by Darren Wooff, *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2010-2011, page 41. Adapted and used with permission.

² Written by Beth W Johnston, *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2015-2016, page 42. Used with permission.

Psalm 91

Voices United 807

Matthew 4: 1-17 • Temptation and the start of Jesus's Ministry

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again, it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only God.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."³

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for Christ, the word made flesh.Anthem: *The Light of the World*, David W. Roe Choir of Robertson-WesleySermon: *Recognize and Respond* Rev. Karen BridgesRecommitment: *A New Creed* **Voices United 918**Hymn: *Bathe Me in Your Light* **More Voices 82**

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (*Voices United* p. 921)*Grateful Response*Offering: *Bluesbells*, Patricia A. Thomson Robertson-Wesley RingersPrayer 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.**

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

Commissioning:

Send us out, O God, full of the Holy Spirit.

Save us from the time of trial, but tempt us with new chances for generosity, for loving-kindness, and for peace. Amen.⁴

Postlude: *Arise, Shine, Thy Light Has Come*, Kevin McChesney

Robertson-Wesley

Ringers

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

Music Notes

As we head into this year of celebration for Canada's 150th birthday, we will feature many of our fantastic Canadian sacred composers in worship. Today is a good example! John Hooper is an "adopted" Canadian, having lived here for many years since beginning his teaching at Concordia University. John wrote this marvellous handbell piece for us five years ago on the occasion of the R-W Ringers 45th anniversary – so we have a big anniversary coming up this year too! The inspiration for this piece came from a Danish hymn translated to "Built on a Rock". It starts out with the text "Built on the Rock the church shall stand even when steeples are falling. Christ builds his church in every land; bells still are chiming and calling." We have hymns by three Canadians as well – Linnea Good (MV8) and John Oldham & Ron Klusmeier (MV 82). David Roe is a composer from Chester, NS, and Pat Thompson is from Saskatoon, SK.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Rev. Karen Bridges of her morning coffee. Feb 3, 2016.

Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Vacant
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⁴ Written by Robin Wardlaw, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2015-2016, page 44. Used with permission.

R-W REPORT JANUARY 22, 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 29, 2016, 10:30 am

Epiphany 4

Whole Family Worship

Scripture:

- Matt 5: 1-20 . The Beatitudes

Sermon: *Engage! Be salty, enhance and alter our discipleship*

On the anniversary of Robertson-Wesley United Church, the scriptures reminds us of our call. It isn't enough these days to simply talk about what we believe. It isn't enough to simply come to worship. As disciples, of Christ, if we are to regain our saltiness and truly be a beacon of light in this community, we need to engage, re-invest and refocus our efforts and stop hiding our identity. It is time to unveil our unique role in the community of Oliver and Edmonton.

Music: Cantilon Kindersingers; Nova Bells;
Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

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

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.**

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. Please consider sending us your writing. It is good for the soul!

KOINONIA

Tonight! Sunday, January 22

Potluck supper at 5:30 pm, worship to follow

A service emphasizing meditation, simple music and thoughtful word; hearing each other's voices and being present. Key words: Jesus, light, hands, heart, Milky way, Earth, gratitude. If you forget to bring a food item, 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**. (Doors at 7, show at 7:30) 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.

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.

RUMMAGE SALE SURVEY

The Rummage Sale is an event that draws in hundreds of people and the funds benefit the church and community. We created a survey online for those wishing to fill one out. Thank you in advance for your feedback. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SXB3WXM>. The link is posted on our front page at rwuc.org.

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.

Community Events

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA AUTHOR BREAKFAST

Hear Caterina Edwards, at DKG's 9th Edmonton-Area Author-Breakfast Event on February 4, 2017

Join DKG for a delicious breakfast and author talk from 10:00 to 12:00 on Feb 4. Edwards has written best sellers *The Sicilian Wife* and *Remembering Rosa* and will speak on the topic *A Mafia Princess / A Female Assassin: Writing as a Way of Understanding.* DKG is a Women's International Educational Society which has been active in Edmonton for over 50 years.

When: Saturday, February 4, 2017, 10:00 to 12:00

Where: Robertson-Wesley United Church Memorial Hall

Tickets: \$20.00, contact Janet at clarkwinchesters@shaw.ca or Lorna at lornaber@telus.net or **buy tickets at the door.**

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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| 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 |
| | R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall | 7:30 pm |
| Thu Jan 26 | Nova Bells– Lower Hall | 5:15 pm |
| | R-W Ringers– Lower Hall | 6:45 pm |
| Sat Jan 28 | Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall | 10:00 am |
| | Games Night– Main floor | 6:00 pm |

ON THE HORIZON

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| Sun Jan 29 | Meditation– Room 11 | 10:00 am |
| Mon Jan 30 | Arts Collective; En Root– Room 11 | 6:00 pm |
| | Spirited Art Studio– Art studio | 7:00 pm |
| Tue Jan 31 | Yoga– Memorial Hall | 10:00 am |
| | Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room | 12:10 pm |
| Wed Feb 1 | Canterbury Service– offsite | 10:30 am |
| Sat Feb 4 | Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall | 10:00 am |
| | Choir Cabaret– Memorial Hall | 7:30 pm |

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