



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 Feb 12

Sacrament of Communion

Epiphany 6



**We are here to practice
our compassion and generosity!**

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 injustice, alienation and oppression.

The flowers in the sanctuary are a gift of the Flower Group.

Prelude: *I'm Beginning to See the Light*, George, Hodges, Ellington, James

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

Epiphany is a time of revelation, a time when we see things for the first time or in a new light.

Open our eyes to see your light, O God.

Epiphany is a time when we hear God's call and all that God is calling us to be.

Open our ears to hear your calling, O God.

Epiphany is a time when we recognize God's grace, abundant and overflowing.

Open our hearts to receive your grace, O God.

Epiphany is a time for worship, that we might be called by the light of Christ, led by the Holy Spirit and filled with the grace of God.

Open our lives to respond in worship of you, O God.¹

Processional Hymn: *An Offering*

Song

Inser

t

Coming Into God's Presence

Introit: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*, arr. Ronald A. Nelson

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Prayer of Confession:

When our eyes are closed, our ears are plugged, and our hearts are frozen, forgive us, Lord. Forgive us and free us to live as you intend. Make us able to see the needs around us. Make us attuned to the hurts that call out. Let your love lead us to service. Bless us, body and soul, so we may use all that we are to know and serve you. In faith, we pray. Amen.²

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.**

¹ Written by Heather McClure, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2017, page 41. Used with permission.

² Written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2010-2011, page 44. Used with permission.

Scriptures:

Caroline De Grave

Psalm 95 (Part One)

Voices United 814

Matthew 14: 13-33 • Feeding of the 5000, walking on the sea

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."³

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Sermon: *Radical hospitality leads to wholeness.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

Voices United 563

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Minute for Mission

Sylvia Duffus

Offering: *Prelude on 'Rhysomedre'*, Ralph Vaughan Williams

Prayer of Gratitude:

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

Most blessed God, we come before you this day and offer the treasures of our lives. We place here our resources, our work, our hopes for this church, our dreams for this world. May your light shine upon these gifts and upon all of us who offer them, empowering us to be wise and generous and open to new understandings. Amen.⁴

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.

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body,
For we all partake of the one bread.

In Christ, God breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves, and divide us from one another.

We are the body of Christ.

At this table we bear witness to our faith.

At this table, God brings wholeness out of brokenness and healing to our world. Let us break bread together.

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.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, we praise you for your love revealed to us in Jesus, who walks with us, our Wisdom and our Way, sharing our joy and sorrow, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and setting the captive free. So it is that we join the song of all creation to proclaim your goodness:

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.

Let us remember together that vision of God's reign shown to us in Jesus at table:

He shared food with followers and friends, with saints and sinners, with crowds of thousands on the hillside, and a few friends in an upper room.

⁴ Written by Nora Vedress, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2017, page 47. Used with permission.

On the night before he died, he had supper with his companions. He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he passed it among them, saying:

“Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us.

In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.

Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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: *O Taste and See*, Vaughan Williams Lara Tang, soprano

Prayer of Rededication

Gracious God, may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm, that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: *Love Us into Fullness*

***More Voices* 81**

Commissioning:

Beloved of God, Christ follower, go into this world in which Jesus lived and heed his call to follow your heart, not your fears.

We will bless the world with our imagination, transform it with our courage, and enliven it with our compassion. Amen.⁵

Postlude: *The Kingsfold Trumpet*, Alfred V.

Fedak

⁵ Written by Suzanne Edgar, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2015-2016, page 45. Used with permission.

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

Music Notes

The offering piece on the hymn tune Rhysomedre (VU 555) and O Taste and See are both by the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). He wrote in many classical genres and was particularly influenced by English folk song and the music of the Tudor period. Vaughan Williams was born into a well-to-do family with strong moral views and a progressive social outlook. Throughout his life he sought to be of service to his fellow citizens, and believed in making music as available as possible to everybody. He wrote many works for amateur and student performance.

“I’m beginning to see the light” was written in 1944, recorded by Ella Fitzgerald in 1945, and has been recorded by many others from Frank Sinatra to Michael Bublé. It appears in the soundtrack to “From Manchester by the Sea”. Some say that it was inspired by Ellington’s entry into the Freemasons. This continues the series to honour Black History month.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by one of the participants at the The United Church National Meeting. This is the gathering of Youth Forum 2003 on the beach of Blomidin, Nova Scotia. Youth from across Canada in the United Church gathered for communion by the sea. In the sand was written “We are not alone.”

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R-W REPORT FEBRUARY 12, 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

February 19, 2016, 10:30 am

Epiphany 7

Scripture:

- Matt 15:1-20 . Tradition of the Elders and things that defile

Sermon: *rEVOLutionary, turns to love.*

In the month of February we will be using best picture Oscar Nominees to explore theology and scripture. In the movie La La Land we witness the ups and downs of a relationship while following one's dream. In the movie one of the characters who is a jazz musician is asked "How are you going to be a revolutionary if you're such a traditionalist?" Jesus challenges the Pharisees and scribes to reflect on their lives in a similar way. Perhaps we all need to rethink what we are focusing on. Perhaps we need to focus on our actions and not just our words so that we can live the lives we have been called to.

Music: Cantilon Primary Choir; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

Volunteer Opportunities:

Oliver Community Festival- We will be having a planning meeting for the upcoming Oliver Community Festival on Wednesday Feb 22 at 7pm. Jamie Evan who is chairing this committee would like to find a team of 6-8 people to help plan this great event which happens on Saturday, June 3rd. You are welcome to come to the first meeting and see what it is all about. Please let Rev. Karen Bridges know if you are interested in helping to plan this event.

A Challenge from Your Nominating Committee-We are seeking **Incoming Chair of the Board, 2 Presbytery Reps, Treasurer and 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

The Annual General Meeting of the Robertson-Wesley congregation will take place in Memorial Hall after the service today.

JOINT SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The team is ready to bring their report to the Robertson-Wesley congregation. The item will be discussed at the ACM. The proposed meeting date is **Sunday February 26, 2017** at Robertson-Wesley. Reverend Stuart Jackson would be pleased to serve as the Chair of the meeting if Ministry and Congregational Support decides to appoint him.

TAX RECEIPTS ARE READY FOR PICK UP!

The 2016 tax receipts can be picked up in the hall after the service today. Receipts will be available throughout the first 3 weeks of February after service on Sunday or during the week through the office. Receipts that are not picked up will be mailed by February 23, 2017.

UCW'S VALENTINE SPECIAL

Tuesday, February 14, 1:30 in Memorial Hall

All are welcome to attend the United Church Women's gathering!

SPIRITUAL ARTS COLLECTIVE

Dis/Harmonies and Artful Responses

SAC is offering workshops to process the fast changes happening in American and Global politics since the beginning of 2017. These workshops are quick, one time sessions that may continue as needed.

February 19, 12:00 am – 2:00 pm, Room 11

Moving the body and soul – movement and connection

To flush out the toxins and trauma, our bodies need to move! Come move your bodies through free expression and connect with others to process current events through poetry and discussion!

February 19, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Art Studio

Silent Self-care open studio

Come explore many art mediums as a form of self-care. In these trying times, nourishing our soul is important to continue to be engaged in the

world and news feeds. Sessions will be conducted in quiet contemplation, participants can be anonymous. No need to register.

Friday, February 24, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Sanctuary
Dis/harmonies - Voice Release with
Laura Raboud and Brooke Leifso

Laura and Brooke will lead a workshop opening up the voice and vocal cords with a focus on authentic voice. Groups will work on solo release and group dis/harmonies.

ARTS COLLECTIVE

Growing: Roots to Shoots. Facilitated by Devika Short

Sundays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, March 5 - April 9, 2017

What makes things grow: the right soil, warmth, water and sunlight. The roots slowly work their way through the dark earth, shooting up; reaching for light. This collective aims to examine our growing process beginning with germination. Through weekly journaling, painting and reflection of our individual growth our collective's blossoming project will be showcased on a painted canvas

Register online through our webpage: <http://www.rwuc.org/sac>

BOOK BUDDIES

Monday, February 27 at 7:00 pm, Club Room

Book Buddies starts the year with Walter Brueggemann's *Sabbath as Resistance; Saying No to the Culture of Now*.

Brueggemann is an Old Testament scholar of international renown, and the author of one hundred books! *Sabbath as Resistance* is a little book with a gigantic message for us. Available in Memorial Hall in February.

KOINONIA WORSHIP

A friendly group that meets for potluck supper, followed by worship, usually the 4th Sunday evening. The worship services are planned and conducted by members of the group in a less formal, more casual style. Themes are varied and can include anything from examining our faith through group discussion, discovering what is meant by 'holy ground', to Sunday Sundaes Sing! Come give us a try! Check the announcements in the Sunday bulletin and eNews. We look forward to seeing you – you're sure to get a warm welcome!! Next service is **Sunday, Feb 26**.

TRANSPORTATION & 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. 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 and now online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K96Z6X6>. The link is also posted on our front page at [rwuc.org](http://www.rwuc.org).

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

Reserve **Friday, March 17** in your calendar for the annual St. Patrick's Dinner. Lamb and beef stew made the traditional Irish way with homemade rolls. Tickets will be available soon!

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 Feb 12	Meditation– Room 11	10:00 am
	Annual Congregational Meeting– M. Hall	11:45 am
	SoulOUTing– Chapel	7:00 pm
Mon Feb 13	Arts Collective; En Root– Room 11	6:00 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
Tue Feb 14	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 Feb 15	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Feb 16	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Feb 19	SAC; Moving body and soul– Room 11	12:00 pm
	SAC; Silent Self-care– Art Studio	2:00 pm
Mon Feb 20	Family Day- office closed	
Tue Feb 21	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	R-W Board– Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Feb 22	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Fri Feb 24	SAC; Dis/harmonies– Sanctuary	7:00 pm
Sat Feb 25	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am

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