



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 Feb 26

Transfiguration

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 injustice, alienation and oppression.

A photograph of a sunrise over a mountain range. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a lighter orange near the horizon. The mountains are silhouetted against the bright light, and there are some lens flare effects in the foreground.

Get up!
Do not be afraid.
It's time...
to enter the light.

Friends in Christ

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are a gift of the Flower Group.

Prelude: *Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier* (Dearest Jesus We are Here), J. S. Bach

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

To climb a mountain is no easy task.

It takes work of the heart, hand, and mind.

To meet God, face to face, is no easy task.

It takes the work of the heart, hand, and mind.

In the climbing, in the meeting, we are changed.

In the speaking, in the listening we are changed.

In the worship, in the prayer, the world is changed.

**So we climb, we meet, we speak, and we listen – and most of all,
we worship God!¹**

Processional Hymn: *Oh a Song Must Rise*

More Voices

142

Coming Into God's Presence

MS Bucket: *Alleluia, Praise to God*

More Voices

59

Prayer of Confession:

O God, there are times when we live under clouds, trudging in the ruts of our own making, unable to see anything beyond our day-to-day stressful busyness. In these days of discouragement, we long for your Spirit to illuminate our pathway, warm our hearts, and give meaning and joyfulness to our lives. 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

Anthem: *Sure on this Shining Night*, Samuel Barber Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scripture:

Maria Adria

Psalm 41

Voices United 765

¹ Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2017, page 50. Used with permission.

² Written by Fern Gibbard, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2015-2016, page 46. Used with permission.

Matthew 16:24 – 17:8 • Passion prediction, transfiguration

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.” Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.”³

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *Go Up to the Mountain of God*, Michael Helman

Choir of Robertson-Wesley, Matthew McGuigan, flute

Sermon: *It is time to stop hiding and enter the light.* Rev. Karen Bridges

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

Please note that the last line of the creed (omitted in some of our hymn books) is:

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* **Voices United 500**

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Offering: *O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair!*, Flor Peeters

Prayer of Gratitude:

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

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

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

Commissioning:

We have seen the light. We have met the Holy One of God.

We want to stay here.

But we cannot stay here; we must go from this place to live our lives in the light of what we now know.

May God help us all to be the people of the Light in all of our days and hours. Amen.⁵

Postlude: *Finale Jubilante*, Healey
Willan

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

Music Notes

Thanks to Matthew McGuigan for playing flute today. The prelude is two settings of the German chorale “Liebster Jesu” which we are using as our theme hymn today (VU 500). Back in Bach’s day, this chorale was used as a kind of devotion before the sermon. Today these settings can serve as your prayer before the service begins. The Barber anthem, while not an overtly religious piece, I think is certainly a spiritual piece. It speaks to looking at the stars from earth (not from heaven – yet), and about what we should share on the earth – kindness, and how we pray for healing, mended hearts, and wholeness for ourselves and others. The organ music at the offering is based on a Transfiguration chorale.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Rev. Karen Bridges in Maui, June 12, 2012.

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
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell

10209 – 123 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 1N3
Phone (780) 482-1587 · Fax (780) 482-1580
mail@rwuc.org · www.rwuc.org



⁵ Written by Beth W Johnston, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2015-2016, page 46. Used with permission.

R-W REPORT FEBRUARY 26, 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

March 5, 2016, 10:30 am

Lent 1

Scripture:

- Matt 18: 15-35 Forgiveness

Sermon: *Team Jesus*

Jesus has called the disciples to come and follow him. We too, are called to be disciples of Jesus and to be part of the body of Christ. In other words – it is time to join Team Jesus. Through this season of Lent we will look at the teachings of Jesus as key steps in becoming an effective and healthy team – the body of Christ, in our own lives, and as a congregation in the world. We need to embody and live the statement “*We Trust in God,*” and we need to trust in each other. Jesus calls us all to the higher task of reconciliation. When one member of the body of Christ suffers we all suffer.

Music: R-W Ringers, 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:

Scripture Readers- We are looking for two readers for the **Ash Wednesday service** on **March 1** at 7:00 pm. Sign-up sheet is posted in Memorial Hall.

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.

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. Sign up sheet is posted in Memorial Hall.

R-W News & Notes

JOINT SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The team is ready to bring their report to the Robertson-Wesley congregation. The meeting date is **TODAY Sunday February 26, 2017** at Robertson-Wesley.

KOINONIA

Lenten Kick-off for Koinonia: Sunday Sundaes Sing tonight at 5:30

For those of you wishing fellowship, a great pot luck meal ending with a Sundae of your making, followed by Lenten readings and hymn singing, we invite you to join us tonight in the Memorial Hall. Around 25 R-W members and adherents meet for this monthly event. There is always someone new, so all, please come.

BOOK BUDDIES

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

Book Buddies starts the year with Dr. 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. Sign up through the church office or on the sign-up sheet posted in Memorial Hall.

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>

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

2017 Mar 1 to Mar 29 Five Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Cost: none

Offered each year, this five-week course is designed to be a brief survey of the foundational elements of church membership with opportunity for discussion and exploration of our religious background. While it is primarily for people preparing for confirmation, we also welcome anyone who would like to just explore their faith, whether they have been confirmed or not. For more information, visit the Membership webpage at www.rwuc.org/membershipclass.html. The first session will begin with the Ash Wednesday service and we will then meet after. Register with Rev. Karen Bridges.

LENT NOON HOUR CONCERTS

Thursdays, 12:10 pm to 12:50 pm

Robertson-Wesley is hosting a noon-hour concert series again this Lent, for five Thursdays in March and April. The concerts will run from 12:10-12:50, and admission is by freewill offering for the performers and for the Robertson-Wesley Music Society. Come and enjoy some tranquil, reflective music for the Lenten season.

March 2 – Alison Stewart, violin; Kathleen de Caen, cello; Julia Davis, piano

March 9 – Judith Richardson, soprano & Tammy-Jo Mortensen, keyboards

March 16 – Jeanne Yang, organ

March 23 – no concert

March 30 – Erik Reinart, organ

April 6 – Alison Grant-Preville, flute & Jeanne Yang, keyboards

DVD SERIES:

Saturday, March 5, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

The DVD series *Countering Pharaoh's Production- Consumption Society Today* will be shown in Room 11.

Refreshments provided. Register in church office or sign up through the church office or on the sign-up sheet posted in Memorial Hall.

Community News

NARAMATA CENTRE

Naramata Centre is open and offering over 40 programs this Spring, Summer and Fall! Check their website:

www.naramatacentresociety.org/programs to see our programs and check often to watch for program and accommodation registration. You can also come and just be at the Centre without taking a program.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Sun Feb 26 | Meditation– Room 11 | 10:00 am |
| | Congregational meeting– Memorial Hall | 11:45 pm |
| | Koinonia– Memorial Hall | 5:30 pm |
| Mon Feb 27 | Arts Collective; En Root– Room 11 | 6:00 pm |
| | Spirited Art Studio– Art studio | 7:00 pm |
| | Book Buddies– Club Room | 7:00 pm |
| Tue Feb 28 | Yoga– Memorial Hall | 10:00 am |
| | Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room | 12:10 pm |
| | Pancake Supper– Memorial Hall | 5:30 pm |
| Wed Mar 01 | Canterbury service– offsite | 10:30 am |
| | Ash Wednesday service– Sanctuary | 7:00 pm |
| | Membership Class– Club Room | 7:30 pm |
| | R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall | 7:45 pm |
| Thu Mar 02 | Lenten Noon Recital– Sanctuary | 12:10 pm |
| | Nova Bells– Lower Hall | 5:15 pm |
| | R-W Ringers– Lower Hall | 6:45 pm |
| | Ministry & Personnel– Club Room | 7:30 pm |
| Sat Mar 04 | Lent DVD Series– Room 11 | 9:30 am |
| | Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall | 10:00 am |

ON THE HORIZON

| | | |
|------------|--|----------|
| Sun Mar 05 | Arts Collective- Growing Roots– Art Studio | 1:00 pm |
| Mon Mar 06 | Arts Collective; En Root– Room 11 | 6:00 pm |
| | Spirited Art Studio– Art studio | 7:00 pm |
| Tue Mar 07 | DEAP– Club Room | 10:00 am |
| | Yoga– Memorial Hall | 10:00 am |
| | Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room | 12:10 pm |
| Wed Mar 08 | Men’s Group– Memorial Hall | 9:30 am |
| | Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall | 5:00 pm |
| | Membership Class– Club Room | 7:30 pm |
| Thu Mar 09 | Lenten Noon Recital– Sanctuary | 12:10 pm |
| Sat Mar 11 | Community Dinner– Memorial Hall | 5:00 pm |

10209 – 123 Street, Edmonton AB T5N 1N3

Phone: (780) 482-1587 Fax: (780) 482-1580

mail@rwuc.org www.rwuc.org

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