



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 March 5

Lent 1

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

We are the body of Christ!



Called into team ministry

Friends in Christ

*The flowers in the sanctuary are in loving memory of **Evan and Vida Buckley** and are the gift of their daughter, **Dorothy**.*

Prelude: *Cymbalum*, William A. Payn

Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Embracing Our Spirit

Processional Hymn: *Like a Rock*

More Voices 92

Opening Prayer:

Gathering God, our rock and shelter

We are here to meet with you.

Travelling God our way and wonder

We are here to meet with you.

Summoning God, our joy and adventure

We are here to meet with you.

From what we know to what we have yet to discover; from all that binds us to the truth which frees us; from the blessings of today to the possibilities of tomorrow;

God is calling us on.¹

Confession: *Kyrie Eleison* (Kervin)

More Voices 69

Prayer of Confession:

Friends, we recognize that the process of redemption is a lifelong journey. It takes a lifetime to learn to be God's faithful people. As we gather in God's presence once more, let us then seek forgiveness for our wrongs. Let us turn once again and pray to our tender and merciful God, and tell the truth...²

Silence

Words of Assurance:

The God who challenges us **is also the God who encourages us.**

The God who confronts us **is also the God who accepts us.**

Be assured that God is with us even now,

Accepting, guiding, and forgiving. Amen.³

Coming Into God's Presence

God's Holy Word

Introit: *The Lord's My Shepherd (Psalm 23)*, Scottish Psalter, arr. Fred Merrett
Choir of Robertson-Wesley, Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Scripture:

Rachel Frey

Matthew 18:15-35 • Forgiveness

¹ Written by Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill, **Eggs and ashes; Practical and liturgical resources for Lent and Holy Week**, (Scotland: Wild Goose Publications, 2004), p. 76.

² Written by Frances Flook, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2015, page 32. Used with permission.

³ Celebrate God's Presence, OK004.

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But the same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “you wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”⁴

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *The Prayer of St. Francis*, Peter Togni Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Team Jesus* Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *True Faith Needs No Defense* **More Voices 139**

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer (*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Offering: *Father, Forgive Them*, William E. Gross Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Offertory Hymn **Insert**

Prayer of Gratitude

Recessional Hymn: *O God, How We Have Wandered* **Voices United 112**

⁴ *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. (1991, Oxford University Press)

Commissioning

Choral Amen, Daniel E. Gawthrop

Postlude: *Chaconne Festiva*, Bruce Wheatcroft
Ringers

Robertson-Wesley

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

Music Notes

We now enter into the liturgical season of Lent, where we find some new music responses and a different overall tone to the music – more meditative, reflective, or displaying several contrasting moods, and often in modes or minor keys. The prelude is Cymbalum, which is a concert hammered dulcimer - an instrument used Central and Eastern Europe.

The Kyrie that we will use throughout Lent was written by William Kervin, Professor of Worship and Liturgy at Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto, and arranged by Bryn Nixon, the Director of Music at Ryerson United Church in Vancouver.

The anthem is by Peter Togni, a church musician, performer, composer, and CBC radio host, who lives in Halifax.

This morning's introit is by Fred Merrett, a prolific handbell composer who has influenced many ringers and conductors over his long career in Winnipeg and Edmonton. We are playing this piece and Bruce Wheatcroft's piece to honour them and other Canadian composers in this sesquicentennial and also to celebrate 50 years of handbell ringing at Robertson-Wesley! Bruce's piece uses every single handbell that we own, including the extra C#7 bell that was purchased for ease of changes and donated to R-W by two of the Ringers: Wendy Hoskin and Linda Stockl. Thanks to Joan Thompson for returning to play with us this morning.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Tanya Eckenswiller, March 1, 2017.

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R-W REPORT March 5, 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 12, 2016, 10:30 am

Lent 2

Communion

Minute for Mission

Scripture:

- Matt 20: 1-16 Labourers in the Vineyard

Sermon: *Let's get passionate not personal.*

The parable of the labourers in the vineyard provides us with a good example of the importance of facing our fear of conflict. It has been said, that "all great relationships require productive conflict in order to grow." Engaging conflict based on our passion for the concepts and ideas rather than interpersonal politics helps us as a team and as a congregation to come up with the best solution. We do this by truly listening to one another, and passionately gathering our collective wisdom. This parable reminds us of the importance of putting aside our human pride, for God shows no partiality among persons. Our motivations for living the gospel should not be about the type of reward we will receive rather it should be for the good of the community or team.

Music: Choir of Robertson-Wesley; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

Thank you to the members of the Joint Search Committee for the many hours and talents you committed in search of a suitable candidate for us here at Robertson-Wesley.

Thank you: The Choir of R-W, Nova Bells & R-W Ringers wish to thank members of the congregation who showed their support by attending the recent **Pancake Supper**. It was nice to see so many young families attending. It was our pleasure to serve you.

Volunteer Opportunities:

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. Your Nominating committee includes Garnet Thomas, Ted Blezard, John Fleming, Ron Soans.

R-W News & Notes

WELCOME REV. LEIGH SINCLAIR!

The Joint Search Committee presented their recommendation to the congregation on Feb 26. As many of you may know, the congregation supported their recommendation and proceeded to call Rev. Leigh Sinclair as Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development beginning March 1, 2017.

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. There is still time to register! Register with Rev. Karen Bridges.

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>

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

Save the date: Friday, March 17 Details coming soon...

MEDITATION GROUP

Every Sunday from 10 am to 10:25 am, Room 11

Meditation has been important in many spiritual traditions through the centuries. If you are a committed meditator or would like to learn how to meditate, come Sunday mornings before the service at 10:00 am for a group meditation session. See for yourself how this technique can improve your health - mind, body and soul.

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 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

MEN'S GROUP

Topic: Trends and Visions in Public Policy and Global Perspective

Time: 9:30 am, March 8, Wednesday in the Memorial Hall

All are welcome to hear the presentation of Tom Axworthy from the January 2017 Epiphany Explorations on ecology of the world. Tom is a professor at the U of T who studied at Harvard and now represents the Canadian government at world-wide ecological meetings. Lorna Berlinguette brought back a DVD of his excellent presentation which includes many graphics and pictures.

Coffee is provided. Please feel free to bring goodies. Invite others.

R-W FUNDRAISING PLANNING MEETING

Sunday, March 12 at 11:30 am, Room 11

The Board of R-W would like to invite you to a Fundraising Planning meeting on March 12 which will be held immediately following the worship service in Room 11. We invite everyone in our congregation to come and be part of the fundraising initiatives, and help us with the plans we have for 2017-2018. Anyone who has an idea for an event, or is planning a future event or has planned a fundraising event for the 2016-2017 program year is requested to be present at this session. We gather each year so that we can coordinate the various events and not compete with each other. We look forward to having you fill room 11 on this day with the energy R-W is well known for....thank you.

Community News

INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM

The Role of Religion in the 21st Century
Thursday, March 9 from 7 to 8 pm. Registration at 6:00 pm

Baitul Hadi Mosque (7005 98 Avenue)

Rev. Karen Bridges will be speaking at this event! This event is organized by Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association and is for women only. Free admission. Complimentary Refreshments. For more information phone: 780-498-3721 or email amwaedmonton@hotmail.com.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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
	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
Tue Mar 07	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	Stewardship – Club Room	1:30 pm
	DEAP– Club Room	6:30 pm
	Men's Group– Memorial Hall	9:30 am
Wed Mar 08	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
	Membership Class– Club Room	7:30 pm
	Lenten Noon Recital– Sanctuary	12:10 pm
Thu Mar 09	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am
Sat Mar 11	Community Dinner– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	R-W Youth Group	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Mar 12	Fundraising Planning meeting– Room 11	11:30 am
	Arts Collective- Growing Roots– Art Studio	1:00 pm
	Soul OUTing– Chapel	7:00 pm
Mon Mar 13	Arts Collective; En Root– Room 11	6:00 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
Tue Mar 14	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	United Church Women– Memorial Hall	1:30 pm
	Property cte– Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Mar 15	Membership Class– Club Room	7:30 pm
Thu Mar 16	Lenten Noon Recital– Sanctuary	12:10 pm
Fri Mar 17	St. Patrick's Dinner– Memorial Hall	5:30 pm

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