



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 March 12

Sacrament of Communion

Lent 2

Great relationships and teams



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of age, gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstance, or sexual orientation. 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

Friends in Christ

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are in loving memory of Margaret Andrekson,
a gift from her family.*

Prelude: *Passacaglia in c minor, BWV 582, J. S. Bach* Tammy-Jo Mortensen

Embracing Our Spirit

Processional Hymn: *I Saw the Rich Ones* **More Voices 127**

Opening Prayer:

God of all pilgrims, God of all seekers,

Open our eyes to your heart within the hearts of others.

Open our eyes to your face in the faces of our neighbours.

Open our eyes to your Spirit in the lives of our friends.

Open our eyes to your love in the actions of strangers. Amen.¹

Confession: *Kyrie Eleison* (Kervin) **More Voices 69**

Prayer of Confession:

Holy One, you call us to come and journey with you, but fear makes us hesitate. We do not want to put one foot in front of the other without assurances that all will be well. We want assurances that those we love will journey with us. We have trouble listening to your voice and believing that stepping into the unknown will lead to blessing. Forgive our reluctance and increase our faith. Assure us once again that your way leads to the promised land, that place of justice and peace where love lights the way.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

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Introit: *Concerto No. 35 (Psalm 15)*, Dmytro Bortniansky Choir of R-W

Solos: Claire Rolheiser, Kalea Turner-Beckman, Yaroslav Veremenko, Matthew

McGuigan

(Text: Who shall rest in thy Temple? Who shall live on thy holy hill?)

¹ Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2011, page 30. Used with permission.

² Written by Dianne Astle, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2016, page 31. Used with permission.

³ Celebrate God's Presence, OK004.

Matthew 20: 1-16 • Labourers in the Vineyard

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘you also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”⁴

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *Similie Est Regnum*, Cristobal Morales
(Text: Matthew 20: 1, 3, 4)

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Let’s get passionate not personal*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *From the Slave Pens of the Delta*

Voices United 690

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

The Lord’s Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Minute for Mission

Sylvia Duffus

Offering: *Kyrie*, J. S. Bach

Offertory Hymn: *Give What You Can, Take What You Need*⁵

Insert

Prayer of Gratitude

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.

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

⁵ Written by Bryan Cook, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2016, page 53. Used with permission.

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.

Thanks and praise be to you, O God, for you create life out of the dust, and sustain us even in the desert. We thank you that in the face of every temptation and trial, every principality and power, you are present to direct and guide, to renew and revive. We praise you for sending us Jesus, your Suffering Servant, to walk before us the way of the cross, to turn us to you and to one another. Therefore, we join your long process of pilgrims praising you along the way:

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.

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

Prayer of Rededication

We give thanks, compassionate God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world united in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: *There's a Spirit in the Air*

vv. 1, 3, 4, 5 Voices United 582

Commissioning

Choral Amen, Daniel E. Gawthrop

Postlude: *Fugue in c minor, BWV 582, J. S.*

Bach

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

Music Notes

The Prelude and Postlude today are both a bit longer than usual, because Bach was such a genius that he didn't know when to stop! The Passacaglia and the Fugue are both based on one theme, and Bach writes variations upon that theme.

Thanks to Dushan Bednarsky for the suggestion for the introit. We have such a diverse population in the choir, including one person from Russia and one from Ukraine, and I've wanted to do a piece in Church Slavonic for a while. Thanks Yaroslav and Olga for the diction coaching and the transcribing.

The anthem by Morales (c. 1500-1553) is based on the Gospel text that has just been read. Even in the 1500's musicians were dealing with this text!

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Albert deVos of Tom Johnston and Rev. Aubrey Edworthy. And the other picture – also Albert deVos – taken at the Medieval Feast, October 15, 2010.

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R-W REPORT March 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

March 19, 2016, 10:30 am

Lent 3

Scripture:

- Matt 22:1-14 The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Sermon: *God's Invitation*

Lack of commitment is almost an epidemic in our society. We have bought into this need for certainty in the community of faith. We have also bought into the need for consensus. Patrick Lencioni claims that "it's better to make a decision boldly and be wrong – rather than change directions with equal boldness and then waffle." We often want to experience the easy moments of discipleship and avoid the more difficult work of outreach and social justice. Being a healthy congregation requires bold commitments to living out the gospel. It's time to accept God's invitation, with boldness.

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

After Worship: All are invited to gather in the Memorial Hall for fellowship and refreshments with us and Intercultural Dialogue Institute to share Noah's Pudding and Turkish coffee.

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.

Volunteer Opportunities:

A Challenge from Your Nominating Committee-We are seeking **Incoming Chair of the Board 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.

Oliver Community Festival- We will be having a planning meeting for the upcoming Oliver Community Festival on Tuesday, **March 14 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 this meeting and see what it is all about. Please let Rev. Karen Bridges know if you are interested in helping to plan this event.

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.

R-W FUNDRAISING PLANNING MEETING TODAY Sunday, March 12 at 11:30 am, Room 11

The Board of R-W would like to invite you to a Fundraising Planning 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.

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. **There is still time to register!** Register online through our webpage: <http://www.rwuc.org/sac>

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN GATHERING

Tuesday, March 14 at 1:30 pm

Men and women are invited to our meeting on Tuesday in Memorial Hall to see a DVD from Epiphany Explorations (Victoria, BC) on the women's march in Washington, DC. There are many implications and much understanding to be garnered from viewing it.

Join us for the movie and goodies!

GOD ON TAP



Young adults ages 18-45ish are invited to join Herman and Karen for some spiritual discussion over pints or beverages. We will meet at the Bru Coffee and Beer House (11965 Jasper Ave - Pearl Tower.) **Monday, March 20 from 7 pm - 9 pm.** Your friends are welcome to come.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION CONVERSATION

Sunday, April 2, 2017 12:00 PM

A gathering of the **Mission and Outreach Pod** is called for Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 12:00 noon in the Club Room.

The M & O Pod is a gathering of members of the congregation to engage in conversation about our current and future directions for Mission and Outreach.

The focus of this gathering will be on building relationship with indigenous people. How are we called to reach out to indigenous people within our community? How can we embrace reconciliation within the life of our congregation?

The Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015) lists ninety-four "Calls to Action" which can be used to engage a conversation about living into reconciliation.

Everyone who is interested, is invited to be a part of this gathering.

*"Honouring the Truth,
Reconciling for the Future"*

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 16 – Jeanne Yang, organ

March 23 – no concert

March 30 – Erik Reinart, organ

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

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.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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 ctte– Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Mar 15	Membership Class– Club Room	7:30 pm
	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Mar 16	Lenten Noon Recital– Sanctuary	12:10 pm
	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Fri Mar 17	St. Patrick’s Dinner– Memorial Hall	5:30 pm
Sat Mar 18	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Mar 19	Koinonia– Memorial Hall	5:30 pm
	Arts Collective- Growing Roots– Art Studio	1:00 pm
Mon Mar 20	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
	God on Tap– offsite	7:00 pm
Tue Mar 21	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	R-W Board meeting– Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Mar 22	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
	Membership Class– Club Room	7:30 pm

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