



*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

2017 March 19

Lent 3

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.



**Get off the fence**

**Boldly choose!**

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## Friends in Christ

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*The flowers in the sanctuary are in loving memory of Rev. C. Tom McLaughlin  
and are a gift from Lourdes McLaughlin and family.*

Prelude: *Chorale & Variations (Sonata No. 6)*, Felix Mendelssohn  
Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Opening Hymn: *As We Gather at Your Table* **Voices United 457**

Opening Prayer:

God we praise you as our ultimate guide. You lead us in your ways.

**Help us to stay on the course.**

God, we trust you as our reliable companion. You are willing to redirect us.

**Help us to follow your desires.**

God, we honour you as our holy direction finder. You reveal infinite options for fulfillment.

**Help us to journey with you. Thanks be to you!**<sup>1</sup>

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

Prayer of Confession:

You offer covenant love, Holy One: faithfulness, care, respect, and dignity. We thank you for your covenant with Noah, with Sarah and Abraham, with us.

**Yet we live as if there were no covenant, no consequences.**

You wait, O God, and wait and wait.

**Show us how to be different in all our relationships. Teach us the dance of love all over again. Hear us into true repentance, true silence, true love.**

*Silence*

Words of Assurance:

**Here is love, that your atoms come from former stars; that you are joined with all the universe; that this gentle bond is called love, and life, and grace. Thank you, O God of all, for this connection to you.**<sup>2</sup>

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

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## God's Holy Word

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Introit: *Psalm 92*, Srul Irving Glick

Cantlon Chamber Choir

(Sung partially in Hebrew. Text can be found at Voices United 810)

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Laura Turnbull & Erin Klassen, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2011, page 30. Used with permission.

<sup>2</sup> Written by Robin Wardlaw **Gathering**, Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2012, page 27. Used with permission.

## Matthew 22: 1-14 • The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.”<sup>3</sup>

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *Wir eilen mit schwachen doch emsigen schritten*, J. S. Bach

Cantlon Chamber Choir, Soloists: Erin Selin & Fenya Fitzpatrick  
(Text from Cantata 78: We hasten with weak, yet eager steps, O Jesus, O Master, to you for help. You faithfully seek the ill and erring. Ah, hear, how we lift up our voices to beg for help. Let Your gracious countenance be joyful to us.)

Sermon: *God’s Invitation*

John Helps

Hymn: *Unbounded Spirit, Breath of God*

**More Voices 155**

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

The Lord’s Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

### Grateful Response

Offering: *Prelude on Beach Spring*, Emma Lou Diemer

*The work of the church relies on the generosity of your donations to maintain the beauty of this building and its ministry and mission. Donations of over \$10, placed in the envelopes found in the pews, will receive a tax receipt. Thank you for your support.*

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

**Insert** <sup>4</sup>

Prayer of Gratitude

Closing Hymn: *Jesus Christ is Waiting*

**Voices United 117**

Commissioning

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

<sup>4</sup> Written by Bryan Cook, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2016, page 53. Used with permission.

Postlude: *Fugue (Sonata No. 6)*, Felix Mendelssohn

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

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### Music Notes

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Thank you to the Cantilon Chamber Choir, their director Heather Johnson, pianist Shannon Hiebert, and the two soloists. They are singing such a wonderful duet from Bach's Cantata 78, which is both full of petition and praise. For the introit they are singing a setting of Ps. 92 (you can find the text at VU 810) by Canadian composer Srul Irving Glick (1934-2002). Glick was Jewish and set many Old Testament texts for choirs. He wrote hundreds of vocal works for use in the synagogue, many with a strong message of peace. This setting of Ps. 92, which is the first of three in a Psalm Trilogy was commissioned for the Toronto Children's Chorus for treble chorus and piano or string orchestra. The other movements are settings of Psalm 47 and Psalm 23.

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### Cover Image

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Cover image: This picture was taken by Jim Triscott and modified. Oct 10, 2015.

Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Rev. Leigh Sinclair  
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges  
Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen  
Office Administrator: Tanya Eckenswiller  
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell

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

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**R-W REPORT March 19, 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 26, 2016, 10:30 am**

**Lent 4**

Scripture:

- Matt 25:1-13 The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

**Sermon:** *Enter the Danger with God on your side*

The parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids reminds us of the importance of staying the course. This saying means "to continue doing something until it is finished or until you achieve something you plan to do." This is a saying that is used in war times. It is interesting to note that it wasn't just one foolish and one wise bridesmaid, it was 10 each. It was a team, a collective of people working together holding each other accountable to achieving their goal which in this case was the appearance of the Son of Man. The danger we often avoid is not holding one another accountable to the call of discipleship. We fear that in doing so we will hurt the team or our relationships. Active waiting requires accountability. How will we keep awake and prepare for what is to come?

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

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

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**Volunteer Opportunities:**

***Scripture Readers-***

We need one more scripture reader for the *Maundy Thursday* service at **7:00 pm on April 13** and two scripture readers for the *Easter Vigil* on **Saturday, April 15 at 7:00 pm.**

## R-W News & Notes

### NOAH'S PUDDING

The Intercultural Dialogue Institute has distributed more than 50,000 cups of Noah's Pudding across Canada as a symbol of richness and diversity with the following famous Turkish motto: "Let's eat sweet and talk sweetly". The events took place in different organizations such as churches, homeless shelters, senior houses, police stations, government offices, universities, NGOs, community centers, and schools to promote peace and dialog between people of communities and groups. We hope you enjoy your Noah's Pudding today!

### KOINONIA WORSHIP TONIGHT

**Are you interested in what's happening to our planet?** Epiphany Explorations 2017 in Victoria, has made up an excellent DVD, featuring Tom Axworthy, speaking on the Trends and Visions in Public Policy and Global Perspective, and where Canada fits into all this. It was well received by the Men's Group last week, so we plan on showing it this evening, including a short discussion. It will be part of our worship service, following potluck supper and a special birthday celebration. You are most welcome to attend this monthly event in Memorial Hall. Plan to join us for a **delicious potluck at 5:30 pm**, (bring something to share if you can), and for **worship, beginning at 6:45 pm** (new time tonight!).



### EASTER HYDRANGEAS

Following the service on **March 26** and Sunday, **April 2**, the Flower Group will be taking orders for Easter hydrangeas. The cost is \$25.00.

### GOD ON TAP

Young adults ages 18-45ish are invited to join 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.



### 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 23 – no concert**)  
March 30 – Erik Reinart, organ  
April 6 – Alison Grant-Preville, flute, Jeanne Yang, keyboards & Andrea Lastiwka, guitar

## **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”*

## **2017 ROBERTSON-WESLEY WOMEN'S WEEKEND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It is the time of year when we begin the planning for our 14th annual Women's Weekend. This year our dates are September 15 - 17.

But... before we can have a Women's Weekend we need some R-W women to plan our weekend. It is this group of women who organize the weekend, plan the program, and present the program. Plus you get to have amazing conversations and share ideas with other R-W women.

If you have any questions speak with **Jill Lambie** after worship by the Club Room on **April 2** or **email her** at [jilllambie@shaw.ca](mailto:jilllambie@shaw.ca).

## **COMMUNITY ART THEORY WORKSHOP FOR ARTISTS**

**April 7 from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm**

What is the difference between an artist creating community informed work and facilitating work for and by a community? Local Expressive and Community Art practitioner, Brooke Leifso will lead artists through community art practices and introduce the ethics of how to work in a community-centered way. The workshop will explore the spectrum of community-engaged art in all mediums and will cover the experience of community art facilitation: how to create art as a community, the ethical concerns of working with communities and engaging in a reflexive practice when creating art with community.

Email [artscoordinator@rwuc.org](mailto:artscoordinator@rwuc.org) to register. **Spots limited.**

## **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.

### HOLY WEEK

**Holy Week Spiritual Practices: Sunday, April 9, 7:00 pm**

Meditative Prayerful Practices

**Maundy Thursday Service: Thursday, April 13, 7:00 pm**

Recalling the Last Supper. R-W Chortet a cappella choir

**Good Friday Service: Friday, April 14 10:30 am**

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

**Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 15 7:00 pm**

Special Music: Judith Richardson, soprano & Robin Doyon, trumpet

**Easter Sunrise Service: Sunday, April 16 7:30 am**

Outdoors on the promenade at 100 Avenue and 121 Street

**Easter Sunday Service: Sunday, April 16, 10:30 am**

Choir of Robertson-Wesley & Pergolesi Brass

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Mar 19	Arts Collective- Growing Roots– Art Studio	1:00 pm
	Koinonia– Memorial Hall	5:30 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	7:00 pm
Thu Mar 23	Community Dinner ctte– Club Room	10:00 am
	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm

### ON THE HORIZON

Sun Mar 26	Arts Collective- Growing Roots– Art Studio	1:00 pm
Tue Mar 28	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
Wed Mar 22	Membership Class– Club Room	7:00 pm
Thu Mar 30	Lenten Noon Recital– Sanctuary	12:10 pm

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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