

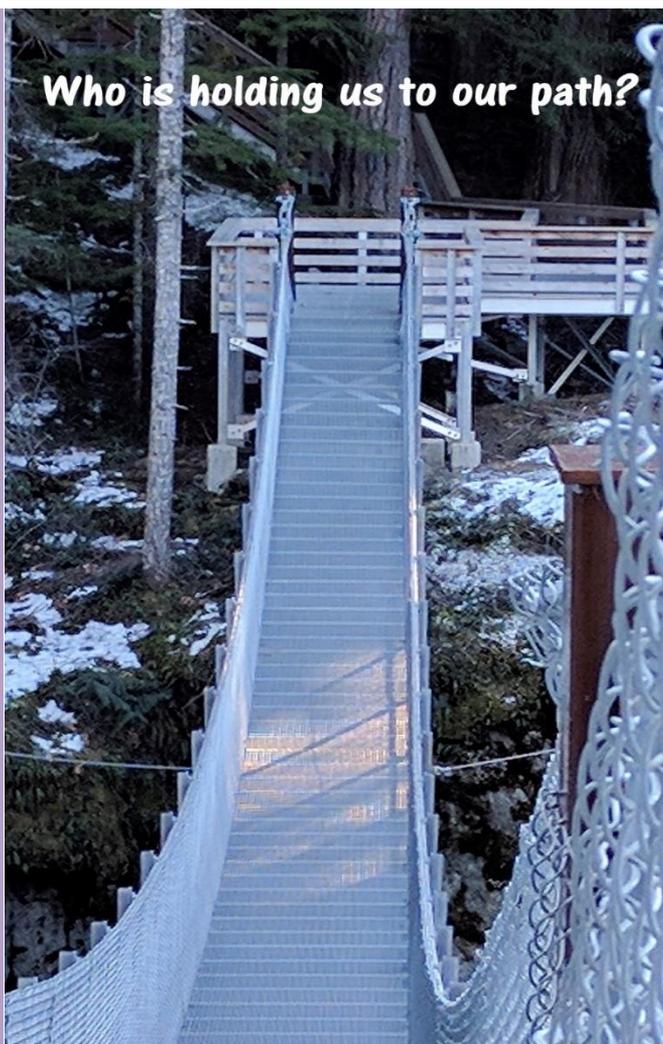


An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 March 26

Lent 4

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



Friends in Christ

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

Prelude: *Ich ruf zu dir Herr Jesu Christ*, (I call to you Lord Jesus Christ), Bach
Embracing Our Spirit

Processional Hymn: *As Long As We Follow* **More Voices 140**

Opening Prayer:

We look about us God at your people and this sacred place.
Thank-you that we can gather safely and in such a community.

We come lifting up our eyes to you.

We come lifting up our hearts to you.

We come seeking You to open our minds and spirits.

For it is from you that our help comes.

For it is from you that wisdom comes.

Thank you and praise be your care for all of creation.

Amen.

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

Prayer of Confession:

God whose heart created all that is, we come having lived full weeks.

At times we have been generous, mindful of others and aware of your presence. At other times we have been stingy, closedminded and dozy in our faith. Faithful that you love us, we ask you to help us take time to remember your expectations of us...to love, live and be lively in our faith.

Silence

Amen.

Words of Assurance:

We lift up our eyes to the heights— from where will our help come?

Our help comes from God, who made heaven and earth.

Our help comes from Christ who forgives us our ways.

The Holy Spirit who loves us will neither slumber nor sleep.

Our God is our keeper:

Thanks be to God!¹

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Introit: *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes* (Psalm 121), Graeme Langager

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

¹ Psalm 121: 1-5, paraphrased

Matthew 25: 1-13 • The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”²

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: <i>Keep Your Lamps</i> , Spiritual, arr. Andre Thomas	Choir of R-W
Sermon: <i>Enter the Danger with God on your side.</i>	Rev. Leigh Sinclair
Hymn: <i>In Loving Partnership</i>	Voices United 603
Pastoral Prayers	Rev. Karen Bridges
The Lord’s Prayer	(<i>Voices United</i> p. 921)

Grateful Response

Offering: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*, Emma Lou Diemer

Offertory Hymn: *Give What You Can, Take What You Need*³
Give what you can, take what you need, For the body of Christ, is enough to feed. The hungry for Spirit and the thirsty for love. Give thanks when you can to our God up above.

Prayer of Gratitude

Recessional Hymn: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* **Voices United 602**

Commissioning:

We have heard the call to sleep and awaken without anxiety.

We have heard the call to follow Jesus in community.

We pray to be open to God

who will keep us brimming over with courage.

Courage to be honest, courage to ask for help and courage to act.

“For there is a future for creation,

Yes, God’s reign will surely come.”⁴

² *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. (1991, Oxford University Press)

³ Written by Bryan Cook, Gathering, Lent/Easter 2016, page 53. Used with permission.

⁴ *As Long As We Follow*, **More Voices** #140, Joseph Kabemba.

Now go and rejoice, for God will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.⁵

Choral Amen, Daniel E. Gawthrop

Postlude: *Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme*, BWV 645, J. S.

Bach

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

Music Notes

This beautiful introit piece is by Vancouver conductor and composer, Graeme Langager. You might remember that he and his choir, The Phoenix Chamber Choir, were here last May, singing in our service as part of the Podium Festival and Conference. They sang this piece in worship, and I fell in love with the beauty and the setting of this well-loved poetry from the psalms. He was also here this summer as the conductor of the adult “Singspiration” program at Concordia, used this piece, and another chorister here, Maria Adria, also loved it, and although it’s not published yet, convinced him to let us use it! The two Bach organ pieces are both organ pieces that J. S. Bach stole from himself. Ich ruf zu dir is taken from a cantata of the same name. It was composed around 1732 in Leipzig, Germany. The postlude was also transcribed by Bach for organ from his cantata “Wachet auf”. In the cantata, it is a movement for strings and tenor voices, here changed to one hand playing the violin parts, feet playing the bass part, and the other hand playing the “tenor” part. I chose these two pieces because they fit the mood of Lent, and the themes for today, but also because it was Bach’s birthday on Tuesday!

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Rev. Leigh Sinclair, January 1, 2017.

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

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



⁵ Psalm 121:8

R-W REPORT March 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

April 2, 2016, 10:30 am

Lent 5

Life Passages

Scripture:

- Matthew 25:31-46 The Judgment of the Nations

Sermon: *The end result is transformation!*

As a part of the body of Christ we need to remember that it is not enough to simply survive. We thrive by living out the gospel together. We are called to remember what Jesus said: "When you did it to one of the least of these, my family, you did it to me." When we trust in God, speak the truth and engage in passionate conflict, we are moved to commit to actively participating and waiting for the kingdom of God to be realized. As we reach out to one another in hospitality and compassion, our hearts will be transformed and the body of Christ will thrive in a world that is starved for meaning and most importantly love.

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:

The St. Patrick's Dinner was a success with thanks to the organizers, volunteers and to the people who attended. The dinner **SOLD OUT** this year!

More details will be announced next week, including the amount of money raised!

R-W News & Notes



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.

LENT NOON HOUR CONCERTS

Thursdays, 12:10 pm to 12:50 pm

Two concerts left! Admission is by freewill offering for the performers and for the Robertson-Wesley Music Society. Come and enjoy some tranquil, reflective, and powerful music for the Lenten season.

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.

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 to register. **Spots limited.**

DIS/HARMONIES # 2

April 21 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Sanctuary

Following the success of Dis/Harmonies with Brooke Leifso and Laura Raboud, The Spiritual Arts Collective is holding Dis/harmonies #2.

Come explore your natural voice in our Sanctuary! We will be whispering, shouting, and jamming with our voices together.

Register through: www.rwuc.org or calling 780-233-5778

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

"SWELL TO GREAT" GALA

Fundraising Concert, Saturday, April 1, 7:30 pm

First Baptist Church - 10031-109 Street - Featuring several Edmonton organists, including Tammy-Jo & also members of the ESO.

LENT NOON HOUR SERIES

Holy Trinity Anglican Church (10037 84 Ave)

Wednesday April 5, noon-1:00 will feature the Edmonton Symphony's Principal Trumpet, Robin Doyon, with Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ. Freewill offering will go toward the players and to the upgrades of the Holy Trinity organ. Robin will also play at our Easter Vigil service.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Mar 26	Meditation Group– Room 11	10:00 am
	Arts Collective- Growing Roots– Art Studio	1:00 pm
Mon Mar 27	Mom's and Dad's Group	9:30 am
	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
Tue Mar 28	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
Wed Mar 29	Membership Class– Club Room	7:00 pm
	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Mar 30	Lenten Noon Recital– Sanctuary	12:10 pm
	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat Apr 1	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Apr 2	Meditation Group– Room 11	10:00 am
	Mission & Outreach Pod– Club Room	12:00 pm
	Arts Collective- Growing Roots– Art Studio	1:00 pm
Mon Apr 3	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
Tue Apr 4	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	DEAP– Club Room	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
Wed Apr 5	Canterbury– offsite	10:30 am
	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
Thu Apr 6	Lenten Noon Recital– Sanctuary	12:10 pm
Sat Apr 8	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am
	R-W Board Retreat– Room 11	9:00 am
	Community Dinner– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	R-W Youth Group– Lower Level	7:00 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