



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 April 9

Palm Sunday



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, 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.

Friends in Christ

Prelude: *Prelude in F, BWV 927*, J. S. Bach, arr. Betty Radford

Robertson-Wesley Ringlets

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you in this house, oh God!

The LORD is God, who has given us light.

We bless you in this house, oh God!

Bind the festal procession with branches, bring them to the table.

We bless you in this house, oh God!¹

Processional Hymn: *We Are Marching (Siyahamba)* **Voices United 646**

Led by Robertson-Wesley Ringlets, arr. Charles Maggs

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

Introit: *There Has to Be a Song*, Andrea Ramsey

Cantlon Children's Choir

God's Holy Word

Confession: *Kyrie Eleison* (Kervin)

three times, More Voices 69

Prayer of Confession:

You are our God, and we will give thanks to you;

You are our Maker, we will praise you.

**Oh it is so good to gather and give thanks to you, for you are good,
and your steadfast love endures forever.**²

We seek to follow your Son's Way.

The challenges of Holy Week are upon us and some of them bring up our fears. They ask us to celebrate people on the margins, to cry out for justice even at our peril and to uphold one another in the crises of life. Hear our fears and help us empty them on to you.

Silence

Amen.

Words of Assurance:

God of Mercy and Courage, thank you for taking our fears and cleansing our hearts just as Jesus cleansed the temple.

Now we can continue to raise our voices in faith: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Scripture:

Matthew 21: 1-13 • The Triumphant Entry

Brenda Sheppard

¹ Psalm 118:26-27

² Psalm 118:28-29

Then they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.” Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you are making it a den of robbers.”

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *Sanctus*, Cristi Cari Miller

Cantlon Children’s Choir

Sermon: *Into the City, following Jesus!*

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *Sisters Let Us Walk Together*

More Voices 179

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Karen Bridges

The Lord’s Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Offering: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*, arr. Matthew Prins

Robertson-Wesley Ringlets

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: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Voices United 123

Commissioning:

We have heard his disciples shout out who we follow:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”

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

We have heard Jesus call us to keep our lives focused on God:
‘My house shall be called a house of prayer.’

So now may we go to prepare ourselves through meditation,
cleansing and community for the trial to come.

**With God as our helper, and in loving community,
we shall stay awake to witness the last days of Jesus.
Amen.**

Choral Benediction: *A Gaelic Blessing*, John Rutter Cantilon Children’s Choir

Postlude: *Hosanna!*, Theodore Dubois Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

Music Notes

Many thanks to all the musicians today: The Cantilon Children’s Choir and their director, Josephine Huedepohl and pianist Shannon Hiebert, and to the R-W Ringlets: Wendy Hoskin, Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin, Debbie Rice, and Linda Stockl.

We have some wonderful pieces from the Cantilon Choir. “There has to be a Song” is a heartfelt piece about the power of music to get us through shadowed and difficult times. The “Sanctus” is a terrific choice for today, as it also has Hosannas in it. The last piece is a great substitute for all the Choral Amens we have been singing in Lent.

The R-W Ringlets are sharing with us a world premiere of a new piece, an arrangement of a Bach keyboard prelude, arranged by Betty B. Radford, one of the Robertson-Wesley Ringers! The Ringlets will also lead us in the South African freedom song “Siyahamba” for our Palm Sunday processional. The offering piece is really a neat one, with 3 double bell trees (which are made by hooking all the handles of several bells together. It also has some cool techniques like “bowed” chimes.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken on Palm Sunday 2013 here at Robertson-Wesley.

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R-W REPORT April 9, 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 16, 2016, 10:30 am

Easter Sunday

Scripture:

- Psalm 118: 19-24
- Matt 28: 1-10 The Resurrection of Jesus

Sermon: *Deep Hope for the World*

As people we are living in a time of deep darkness, and uncertainty, but this is not the end of the story, for we see and we enter a great light. This light will show us a way through conflict, the light of Christ gives us a new vision of a world where we are engaged, where we come together, where we find a way to remove the stumbling blocks of people seeking power for themselves. Through the practice of truth telling, forgiveness and prayer we find ourselves able to respond to the hurts of the world in community rather than isolation. There is deep hope for this world and that hope rests in Jesus Christ.

Music: Pergolesi Brass; 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: *Calling all Sandwich makers.* Once again we will be making sandwiches for the Bissell Center on each Tuesday in the month of May. We will be meeting in the kitchen, starting about 9am, and we usually finish by noon. There is a signup sheet in the Memorial Hall for volunteers. If you want further information please contact Connie Waters at 780-462-4645.

Rummage Sale: April 26-29- Various positions and times available!

Thank you: Kid's Church, Garden Patch and R-W Youth for preparing lunch and dessert during fellowship in Memorial Hall following worship last Sunday. It was a surprise for all and we all enjoyed the food greatly.

R-W News & Notes

OFFERING & ENVELOPE NUMBER

The expenses of Robertson-Wesley United Church are funded mostly from the generosity of our congregation and community. Thank-you very much your generosity and support in keeping our church a welcoming place of worship for our wonderfully diverse community. We wish to remind you that your offering is counted by and tax receipted by a network of volunteers. Please include your envelope number with your offering if you have one or print your name and address neatly with your offering. This will help to minimize errors on your income tax receipt. If you don't remember your envelope number or don't have one and would like one, please email Tanya at mail@rwuc.org or Robert at accounting@rwuc.org .

RUN FOR MUSIC

Once again, members of our choir are participating in the Run for Music as Team Robertson-Wesley. The Run for Music is a fundraising project sponsored by Choir Alberta, with some of the funds raised going to support participating choirs. Our share goes to support music programs here at Robertson-Wesley such as Choral Morphosis.

We'd like to ask for your support again this year.

Members of Team Robertson-Wesley will be accepting pledges following the service each Sunday from now until April 30. Pledges can also be made online at <http://raiseathon.ca/runformusic/profile/hcc4xgh> (Team Robertson-Wesley)

Thank you again for your continuing support!

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Tuesday, April 11, 1:30 pm

Everyone is welcome to join with UCW meeting on Tuesday. World traveler Tony Jansen will present *India Unveiled*, an account in pictures and story of his recent trip to India. Just let Janet M Clark know if you plan to attend so that we will have enough tea and goodies for you.

MEN'S GROUP

Wednesday, April 12

On April 12, the R-W Men's Group intends ride the Edmonton Metro Transit Train from the NAIT Station all the way to the most southerly stop, Century Park Station; and back. Once back at NAIT everyone is invited to head to the Kingsway Food court to buy lunch.

Come and see how the future of Edmonton's transportation is evolving. The train will travel past major Edmonton landmarks, journey underground, an even soar over the Saskatchewan River.

Those interested are to meet at R-W at 9:15 am, to car pool and register to park the vehicles at the North end of the Kingsway Parking lot. Costs will involve fare and lunch. Some walking is required. **The Men's Group invites the congregation to join them 'riding the rails'.** Contact Jim Triscott (780-991-8837) with any questions.

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

MEMBERSHIP CLASS (FOR ADULTS)

Leader: Rev. Leigh Sinclair

May 3 to May 31

5 Wednesday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 pm at R-W, Club Room

This six-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 the basics, whether they have been confirmed or not. Register through Rev. Leigh Sinclair or through the church office.

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.

GARDENING GIFT CARDS

Last May, our church raised almost \$500 from the sale of Garden cards from Salisbury Greenhouse and Greenland Garden Centre. Salisbury Greenhouse is located at 52337 Range Rd 232, Sherwood Park, AB T8B 1B8 or and Greenland Garden Centre is located at 23108 Hwy 16, Sherwood Park, AB T8A 4V2. The church must purchase lots of at least \$1,000 for each supplier, so we will pursue this only if we have enough orders. Similar to the grocery cards that we offer for sale, cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100. However, due to the seasonality of these cards, we will only purchase these cards for distribution in early May. The church will receive 20% of the face value of the Salisbury cards and 10% of the face value of the Greenland cards. If you are interested, please place your order with the grocery card sales team in Memorial Hall after worship or email your name, phone number,

and the number of cards you are interested in purchasing to accounting@rwuc.org . Once we meet minimum order you will be contacted and pre-payment (cheque or cash only) will be due by May 6th for a May 15th availability date. **Note that the cards may not be used toward landscaping services.** Thank-you for your support!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

THE EDMONTON PRAYER BREAKFAST

Wednesday, April 26 at Shaw Conference Centre.

Keynote Speaker Grant Beck with Guest of Honour Mayor Don Iveson. The breakfast is a non-political event that allows participating churches, ministries and individuals the opportunity to show support and appreciation for our mayor and other civic leaders. Please let Rev. Karen Bridges know if you are interested in going, so that we can get a table. A poster is posted in Memorial Hall for more information.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Apr 9	Arts Collective- Growing Roots– Art Studio	1:00 pm
	Soul OUTing– Chapel	7:00 pm
	Spiritual Practices– Memorial Hall	7:00 pm
Mon Apr 10	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
Tue Apr 11	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	United Church Women– Memorial Hall	1:00 pm
	Property ctte– Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Apr 12	Men’s Group– offsite	9:15 am
	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Apr 13	Stewardship ctte– Club Room	1:00 pm
	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
	Maundy Thursday service– Sanctuary	7:00 pm
Fri Apr 14	Good Friday service– Sanctuary	10:30 am
Sat Apr 15	Easter Vigil– Sanctuary	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Apr 16	Easter Sunrise Service– Promenade	7:30 am
	Koinonia’s Easter Breakfast– Memorial Hall	8:00 am
	Easter Service	10:30 am
Mon Apr 17	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
Tue Apr 18	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	R-W Board meeting– Room 11	7:00 pm
Fri Apr 21	Dis/Harmonies #2– Sanctuary	7:00 pm

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