



*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

2017 April 13

Maundy Thursday

## Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, 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 affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.



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Friends in *Christ*

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Prelude: *Ubi Caritas*, Paul Mealor

R-W Córtes

(Translation: *Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart.*)

Call to Worship:

Jesus said: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. As I have loved you, you also should love one another."

**Gather us in your spirit of deep love this day.**

Not only gather us, but build up in us the depth of your love;

**A love that chooses forgiveness over retaliation,**

A love that chooses to give over taking,

**A love that chooses to be wide rather than narrow.**

Build up the strength of your selfless love within us, as we worship.

**Prepare us for all the opportunities to give ourselves away in your name.<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *Take, O Take Me as I Am*

**More Voices 85**

Prayer of Confession:

**Humbly you showed a way, Lord; a way of giving, serving, loving, sacrificing. Humbly you set an example for us to follow; a holy way, a perfected way, and achievable way of living. Humble us this night, that hearing again of your life's work, we might be encouraged. In the name of the servant Jesus we offer the truth of our hearts:**

*Silence*

Sung response: *Kyrie Eleison* (Kervin)

**More Voices 69**

Words of Assurance:

**In the depth of our hearts we know that you hear us, you love us.**

**You forgive us. Turn us in your direction, Lord, so that we can**

**live out what is deep within our hearts. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

Scripture: Psalm 116: 12-19 • I am your servant Lord

Tanya Eckenswiller

Reflection: *Invitation and offering.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Prayer for Ritual Washing:

*Reflect on these words: May this healing water wash away my pain and fear.*

Music during ritual: *Even When He Is Silent*, Kim André Arnesen R-W Córtes

(Text: *I believe in the sun even when it's not shining, I believe in love, even when I feel it not. I believe in God, even when He is silent.*)

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Elaine Bidgood Sveet, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2015, page 38. Used with permission.

<sup>2</sup> Written by Elaine Bidgood Sveet, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2012, page 32. Used with permission.

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God's Holy Word

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Scripture: Matthew 26: 17-30 • The Last Supper

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *I Am The True Vine*, Arvo Pärt (Text: *John 15:1*)

R-W Córtes

Sacrament of Communion:

Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Dying, Christ destroyed our death.**

**Rising, Christ restored our life.**

**Christ will come in glory.**

Holy Spirit, unite us at this table and strengthen us to live the resurrected life of Christ in the world.

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

The bread that we break

**is our sharing in the life of Christ.**

The cup for which we give thanks

**is our sharing in the life of Christ.**

Come for all is ready.

Anthem: *What Wondrous Love Is This*, Robert Scholz

R-W Córtes

Prayer after Communion:

**For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, for the life we have received, we thank you God. Grant that what we have done and have been given here, may so put its mark on us, that it may remain always in our hearts. Grant that we may grow in Christian love and understanding, and that ours may be lives of faithful action, in Christ's name. Amen.**

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Grateful Response

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Reflection: *Remembrance*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Stay with me*

**Voices United 950**

Scripture: Mark 14:26-42 Prayers in Gethsemane

Sandi Darrell

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Sung Response: *Jesus, Remember Me*

**Voices United 148**

Commissioning:

This holy night, this holy week, cling to the promises of God, cling to the example of Christ, cling to the presence of the Spirit.

## Sorrow will turn into joy. The shadows of this holy week will dawn a new hope.

Not yet, but soon. By the power of God, soon. Amen.<sup>3</sup>

Anthem: *Stay With Us*, Egil Hovland

R-W Córтет

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### Music Notes

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Many thanks to members of the R-W choir (sometimes known as the R-W "Córтет") for providing music for our service this evening: sopranos Claire Rolheiser, Jill Hoogewoonink, Shamin Malmas, and Lara Tang; altos Kalea Turner-Beckman and Caroline de Grave; tenors Andy Melson and Yaroslav Veremenko; and basses Neal Neigel, Adam Sartore, and Matthew McGuigan.

By chance, our musical selections feature a strong Norwegian influence! Arnesen & Hovland both hail from Norway, and Robert Scholz is an alumnus of St. Olaf College in Minnesota, which was founded by Norwegian-American immigrants and is renowned for its choir. Scholz's arrangement of *What Wondrous Love* features striking use of both minimal and polyphonic textures to illuminate the timelessness of this hymn. The text of *Even When He Is Silent* is shrouded in some mystery: the anonymous author's words were reportedly discovered by allied soldiers at the end of World War II on the walls of either a cellar, a prison, a concentration camp, or in some accounts a cave outside of Warsaw. Regardless of their origin, the words continue to be a powerful declaration of hope, compassion, and humanity in the face of overwhelming darkness.

Closer to home, Paul Mealor is a frequent collaborator and composer in residence with Pro Coro here in Edmonton (although he is Welsh, and calls Scotland home). His *Ubi Caritas* was famously performed for the Royal Wedding at Westminster Abbey in 2011. Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's *I Am The True Vine* presents an interesting challenge to our choristers: to illustrate the symbolism of the text, each voice part rarely sings more than one or two consecutive words of the text, passing the melodic line fluidly from voice to voice... sometimes only speaking a single syllable of the word! The result is that each connection must be done as smoothly as possible so as not to interrupt the text... truly an exercise in being joined by the "vine" of the music!

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### Cover Image

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Cover image: This picture was taken by Rev. Karen Bridges at Maundy Thursday, 2016.

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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 Eckenswiler  
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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