



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 April 16

Easter Sunday



Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, gender, differing abilities, or ethnicity. 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 today are presented by members of the Robertson-Wesley congregation honouring family members and friends.

Prelude: *Fantare for Easter Day*, Gerald Bales
Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ & Pergolesi Brass

Sung Invocation: *Alleluia (Duncan)* **More Voices 50**

Embracing Our Spirit

Processional Hymn: *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* **Voices United 155**

Opening Prayer:

You are a God of dreams;

We pray for your vision.

You are a God of hope;

We pray for your peace.

You are a God of love;

We pray for your fullness.

You are a God of life;

We pray for your Spirit. Amen.¹

Prayer of Confession:

Faithful One, you stay by our side,

and yet often we fail to see you, caught as we are in the shadows cast by our fears and struggles.

Risen One, you are present in the walking,

and yet often we perceive ourselves to be alone, focused as we are on the obstacles in our path.

Caring One, you draw us to yourself,

and yet often we sense abandonment, giving in to despair and hopelessness...²

Silence

Amen.

Words of Assurance:

God says, let go of the things that are not life-giving.

Let go of all that needs to die in order that you may rise to new life.

In letting go, we are free to embrace new life.

In our dying is our rising.³

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Introit: *Easter Antiphon*, David Hurd Choir of Robertson-Wesley & Pergolesi Brass

¹ Written by Nora Vedress, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2016, p. 40. Used with permission.

² Written by Cindy Randall, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2014, p. 44. Used with permission.

³ Written by Cindy Randall, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2017, p. 41. Used with permission.

Psalm 118: 19-24

Matthew 28: 1-10 • The Resurrection of Jesus

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said, Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him. This is my message for you.'" So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."⁴

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for Christ, the word made flesh.Anthem: *Psalm 100*, Eleanor Daley Choir of Robertson-Wesley & Pergolesi BrassSermon: *Deep Hope for the World*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *This Is the Day That God Has Made***Voices United 175**

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

The Lord's Prayer

*(Voices United p. 921)**Grateful Response*Offering: *Canzona per sonare*, Giovanni Gabrieli

Pergolesi Brass

The work of the church relies on the generosity of your donations to maintain the beauty of this building and the ministry that it provides along with outreach programs such as the community dinner and the Spirited Arts Collective. Donations of over \$10, placed in the envelopes found in the pews, will receive a tax receipt. Thank you for your support.

Offertory Hymn:

Voices United 168 v 4

**May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with the oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.**

Prayer of Gratitude

Recessional Hymn: *Christ Is Alive***Voices United 158**

Commissioning:

Go, with the Easter joy deep within your hearts.

Thanks be to God!

Go, with the Easter songs singing on your lips.

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

Thanks be to God!

Go, with the hopeful message of Easter clear in your minds.

Thanks be to God!

Go, certain that in time and beyond time, God's love is with you and will never leave you.

Thanks be to God!⁵

Postlude: *Alleluia*, J. S. Bach

Tammy-Jo Mortensen & Pergolesi Brass

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

Music Notes

Thanks to the Pergolesi Brass this morning! They are: Joel Gray and Frederic Payant, trumpet and Audrey Ochoa and Ken Read, trombone. There are two wonderful pieces by Canadians – the opening piece by Gerald Bales (1919-2002), and the Psalm 100 anthem by Eleanor Daley. Some of the other composers include Gabrieli, who was a master of the brass repertoire and writing antiphonal music (like the Daley piece, which alternates between the two groups) for the church of San Marco in Venice. Although the postlude, from Cantata 142, is now thought to be misattributed to Bach, this is a sparkly arrangement for organ and brass quartet appropriate for Easter Day!

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Hal Thiessen, Easter Sunday 2016 at Robertson-Wesley United Church.

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⁵ Written by David Sparks, **Gathering** Lent/Easter 2017, p. 44. Used with permission.

R-W REPORT April 16, 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 23, 2016, 10:30 am

Easter 2

Stewardship Sunday

Seconds for Stewardship

Board Commissioning

Scripture:

- Matt 28: 16-20 Make disciples of all nations

Sermon: *It's our time now.*

This is the moment of transition from discipleship to mission and ministry. The scripture captures the final commissioning where the disciples are called and empowered by Jesus to do as Jesus did. Their mission is to spread the good news, to teach, and to heal. The Stewardship theme this year is "Knock, knock... believe, seek, share." This is the great commissioning. But beware the lure of such power, and stay grounded in the spirit of discernment and the social gospel.

Music: Guest aboriginal musicians;

R-W Ringers; 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:

Rummage Sale: Various times and positions are available beginning on Wednesday, April 26 through to sale day on **Saturday, April 29**. Sign-up sheet is posted in Memorial Hall. Sign up for as many positions as you like.

R-W News & Notes

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). A direct link is on our front page at rwuc.org. Thank you again for your continuing support.

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.

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

R-W LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION

Sunday April 23 at noon in Room 11

We would like anyone who is taking on a leadership role in the church to attend the leadership orientation session hosted by the R-W Board. In this orientation you will learn about how to book and communicate about the work you are doing, while being orientated to the facility and where to find things. This is a great opportunity to learn about how we work and ask any questions you might have. Everyone is welcome even if you are not presently in a leadership role.

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 five-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.

KOINONIA WORSHIP

A friendly group that meets monthly for potluck supper, followed by worship, usually the 4th Sunday evening. The worship services are planned and conducted by members of the group in a less formal, more casual style. Themes are varied and can include anything from examining our faith through group discussion, discovering what is meant by 'holy ground', to Sunday Sundaes Sing! Come give us a try! We look forward to seeing you – you're sure to get a warm welcome!!

Next gathering: Sunday, May 28 at 5:30 pm.

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!

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.

EXTREME HUNGER APPEAL

The United Church of Canada is launching an **Extreme Hunger Appeal** as the humanitarian crisis in Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen reaches grave levels.

Starvation and extreme hunger are rapidly reaching a scale the world has not seen before in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen. There is also extreme hunger, malnutrition, and starvation in Kenya. Vulnerable people are most impacted, including children.

Visit the united-church.ca website for more information and to donate.

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.

A poster is posted in Memorial Hall for more information.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Apr 16	Easter Sunrise Service– Promenade	7:30 am
	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
Wed Apr 19	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Apr 20	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Fri Apr 21	Dis/Harmonies #2– Sanctuary	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Apr 23	Leadership Orientation– Room 11	11:45 am
Mon Apr 24	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
Tue Apr 25	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
Sat Apr 29	Spring Rummage Sale– Memorial Hall	9:00 am
	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am

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