



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 April 23

Stewardship Sunday

Easter 2



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, alienation and oppression.

Friends in Christ

The flowers in the sanctuary are in loving memory of Auguste and Marinus Jansen and are a gift from their son, Tony and in celebration of Tony's 80th birthday.

Prelude: *Mother Earth, Spirit Sky*, Merle Petersen Robertson-Wesley Ringers

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

Embracing Our Spirit

Opening Prayer:

We raise our eyes, **and you are there.**

We look to the heavens, **and you are there.**

We look to each other, **and you are there.**

We look inside, **and you are there. No matter where we go, God, you are there always. Forever. Alleluia! Amen.**¹

Processional Hymn: *Hey Ney Yana* **More Voices 217**

Led by Julie Golosky & Karen Shepherd

Coming Into God's Presence Neal Neigel & Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Introit: *Ho Ho Watanay*, Iroquois Lullaby, arr. Betty B. Radford

Choir of Robertson-Wesley & Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Scripture: Pat Stewart

Matthew 28: 16-20 • Make disciples of all nations

Now the eleven disciples made their way to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had summoned them. At the sight of the risen Christ, they fell down in homage, though some doubted what they were seeing. Jesus came forward and addressed them in these words: "All authority has been given me both in heaven and on earth; go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptize them in the name of Abba God, and of the Only Begotten, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to carry out everything that I have commanded you. And know that, I am with you always, even until the end of the world."²

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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

Anthem: *Living Water, Guiding Spirit*, Dakota Melody, arr. Joseph Martin

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Reflection: *It's our time now.* Rev. Karen Bridges & Stewardship Committee

Honour Song Julie Golosky & Karen Shepherd

Pastoral Prayers Rev. Leigh Sinclair & Kelly Paul, Native Flute

The Lord's Prayer (*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Seconds for Stewardship Will Lumsden

¹ Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2017, p. 47. Used with permission.

² *The Inclusive Bible*. (2007, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.)

Offering: *Hishuk Ish Tsawalk*, Bruce Henzel

Robertson-Wesley Ringers

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

Commissioning Church Board Members:

We come as pilgrims in this church and affirm its mission:

That we are one in Christ, and come together at Robertson-Wesley United Church to worship God, to share each other's joys and sorrows, to learn and grow in faith, to use God's gifts wisely, and to lead active Christian lives of service among our neighbours here and in the global community.

Congregational Commitments (*please stand as you are able*)

We ask for your active support and prayers.

We commission you to serve on our behalf in the leadership of the Church. We pledge to you our active support, our commitment to the life of the Church, and our prayers. May God bless your work in the coming year.

Let us pray together,

Spirit of Wisdom, dwell in us and open our hearts and minds to ever greater heights. It is your will we seek to find, grant us loving strength and divine wisdom. Take our lives and shape us. Clear our eyes and heal us. Make of this Church your Love made known in this time and place. For Jesus, Amen.

Recessional Hymn: *Sent Out in Jesus' Name*

More Voices 212

Commissioning

Postlude: *Trumpet Air*, Bert Van Der Hoek

Tammy-Jo Mortensen

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

Music Notes

What an amazing collection of music this morning to honour the aboriginal siblings in our midst and in the wider world. We hope that learning more, honouring traditions, and playing and teaching ritual and music helps build bridges of reconciliation. Thank you to Neal Neigel, Julie Golosky, Karen Shepherd, and Kelly Paul for their participation this morning.

The prelude is a newly composed piece inspired by the aboriginal respect for nature, the mystical feeling of the North. It is subtitled Land of the Midnight Sun.

Julie Golosky and Karen Shepherd lead our opening hymn this morning. "Hey Ney Yana" - is a song of respect for creation. The syllables of the chorus are non-lexical syllables meant as vehicles of praise. Julie is a part of the Métis nation of Alberta, her family originating from the Fort McMurray area. Karen is from the Montreal Lake Cree Nation in Northern Saskatchewan. A few years ago they released their debut CD as the group "The Crow Girls". The CD was described by the Aboriginal People's Choice Awards as "an eclectic blend of Folk and Roots flavoured with

Aboriginal rhythms.” The disc won the North American Native Music Award for Best Folk Recording in 2008. (It will be on sale after church!) Karen will be on tour with us at the beginning of June when the Choir & Ringers do 5 concerts in the areas surrounding Edmonton for Canada’s 150th, with the support of a Canada 150 grant. Karen and Julie also share an Honour Song that Karen has composed. It is made up of vocables and therefore has no literal meaning, but does give praise to the Creator. Thanks to Neal Neigel for telling the Kwakiutl fable about the red cedar, and teaching us some words in Kwak’wala. Neal belongs to the Wei Wai Kum band, in Campbell River, B.C.

As the introit we are using the last portion of Betty Radford’s piece, “So Glorious and Free” which finishes with this Iroquois lullaby for children’s or women’s chorus and handbells. The text Ho Ho Watanay is translated to: “Sleep, sleep, my little one, sleep now.”

The anthem is based on the Dakota hymn which we use for the text “Many and Great” (VU 308). Martin’s text is inspired by Ps. 42 and the aboriginal respect for creation.

Thanks very much to Kelly Paul who is Cree from Alexander First Nation near Morinville. I used to teach Kelly piano and he and his family worshipped at a church I worked at before I came to R-W, so it’s lovely to work with him again! The Native Flute is played much like a recorder. It is simple in construction and hauntingly beautiful in tone. Kelly will improvise during the prayers.

The offering is a piece written for handbells and B.C. composer Bruce Henzel was inspired by the west coast peoples. The title means “Everything is one and all is interconnected.” It was also inspired by the paintings of Emily Carr who travelled and painted among many indigenous peoples of B.C.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken of a canvas painted by Felicia Drever, Doug Short and Devika Short, participants of the Spiritual Arts Collective, “Growing: Roots to Shoots.” The painting reflects several components necessary for growing from roots to shoots and also our individual growth.

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

Easter 3

Scripture:

- Acts 10:1-17, 34-35

Sermon: *Strange co-workers*

We are asked by our Scriptures to tell others about Jesus' compassion and forgiveness. We are also asked to pray that as many people as possible both tell and hear the Good News. **But what do we do when the teller is not someone we recognize as a co-worker?** What do we do if we are called to listen to a stranger to hear Jesus better? Can God truly be active in anyone? Even Italian soldier named Cornelius? This is the challenge the disciple Peter faced. It also faces us.

Music: Choral Morphosis; 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.

Magic Pantry- R-W provides a free bag lunch from Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. This outreach program relies on volunteers to be available at the door from 12 pm to 1 pm with a bag lunch ready for people that come to the door. Sign-up sheet is posted in Memorial Hall.

Staff

Rev. Karen Bridges will be on Study leave from April 27 – May 15, 2017 attending the Inspire Conference and Church Revitalization in Vancouver.

R-W News & Notes

R-W LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION

TODAY! 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.

BETWEEN THE AISLES

Submissions for the next issue of Between the Aisles, Robertson-Wesley's quarterly newsletter, are due on **Sunday, May 7**. They can be emailed to rwucnews@gmail.com. The preferred format is Word, but PDF is also acceptable. Please see the rwuc.org/publications.html page of the web site for more details on submissions.

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.

Members of Team Robertson-Wesley will be accepting pledges following the service only this week and next week. 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.

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.

DVD SERIES: VIOLENCE DIVINE

Violence Divine: Overcoming the Bible's Betrayal of its non-Violent God is the latest in a series of DVD lectures by scholar Dominic Crossan. Jesus declared Peace, but we have misunderstood much of his message. Join facilitator Nancy Heule on **Monday evenings May 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 7 pm in the Club Room** for viewing and discussion. Refreshments provided.

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.

KOINONIA WORSHIP

A friendly group that meets 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 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

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.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Apr 23	Meditation Group– Room 11	10:00 am
	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
Wed Apr 26	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Apr 27	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat Apr 29	Spring Rummage Sale– Memorial Hall	9:00 am
	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 am

ON THE HORIZON

Mon May 01	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
Tue May 02	DEAP– Club Room	10:00 am
	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	Ministry & Personnel– Club Room	7:30 pm
Wed May 03	Canterbury service– offsite	10:30 am
	Membership Class– Club Room	7:00 pm
Sat May 06	R-W Youth Group– offsite	7:00 pm

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