



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 May 21

Life Passages

Easter 6

Welcome and Inclusion

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

We have obtained access...

*to God's love
and the Holy Spirit!*



Friends in Christ

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

Prelude: *Reflection*, Chan Ka Nin

Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Sung Invocation: *Ay, Ay Salidummay*

More Voices 184

Embracing Our Spirit

Opening Prayer:

Wondrous God, you reach out with compassion and protect us tenderly. In deep gratitude, we offer this prayer. Your gentle love sustains and nurtures us, enabling us to support others. May we listen attentively, care responsively, and guide wisely. Help us to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.¹

M&S Bucket (Mar/Apr/May)

Processional Hymn: *Alleluia, Praise to God*

More Voices 59

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Introit: *Rise Up My Love*, Healey Willan

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scriptures:

Rachel Frey

Romans 5: 1-11 • Justified by faith

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

This is the witness of the Church

Thanks be to God for the power of the Holy Spirit.

Anthem: *Ca Khúc Tạ Ôn Tôn Vinh* (*Hold Firm to His Promise*), Vũ Đức

Nghiêm

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

(Text: Why do I fear when Jesus is still the same? Why am I doubtful? He never fails.

Why don't I stand firm in His tender care? And be delightful in His hand?

Always be joyful, let Him bear your load. Keep up your hope, rely on Him alone.

¹ Written by Laura Turnbull, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2017, p. 41. Used with permission.

Hold firm His promise, shine your steady faith. He's always near to hear your prayer.
This changing world will pass away, but Jesus is still the same.
Faithful is He, His mercy and power will never fail, saving sinners loss.
He's always joyful, let Him bear your load.
With all your heart, tell Him your needs in prayer.
Hold firm His promise, lo, He never fails, Forever more, He still is love.)

Sermon: *Act according to your faith!*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Holy Spirit, You're Like the Wind*

More Voices 5

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Learnings from Leadership

Joan and Gary Pecknold

Offering: *River Flows in You*, Yiruma

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

Transfer of Membership:

Life Passages Assistant: Brenda Shepperd

Robert Klakowich

Valerie Rappel

Leena Ebenezer and Henry Varapasad

Congregational Commitment:

Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

As your brothers and sisters in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

Recessional Hymn: *May the Love of the Lord* **More Voices 218**

Commissioning:

We cannot keep the good news of Easter to ourselves. When we are challenged, we will speak of hope; when we are tested, we will stand by our faith; when we feel alone, we will remember that God is with us. Go into the world; celebrate life and all that is possible.

We cannot keep the good news of Easter to ourselves.²

Postlude: *Finale Jubilante*, Healey Willan

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

² Written by Bill Steadman and Catherine Somerville, **Gathering** Lent/Easter 2017, p. 44. Used with permission.

Music Notes

Our focus of the United Church of Canada being an intercultural church continues with some music from Asia this morning. The prelude is by the Korean composer Lee Ru-ma (b. 1978) - known as Yiruma. He often performs sold-out concerts in Asia and Europe. He began piano at age 5, and at 10 moved to London to study at the Purcell School of Music, with training later in composition at King's College, London. His music has been described as "New Age" and "Pop Classical". On his spiritual viewpoint, he states, "I'm a Christian, I am not a New-age artist. Most people misunderstand me." This piece has become popular for weddings. The text of the Healey Willan Easter season introit comes from the Song of Solomon 2:10-12. It's one of the few love songs in the Bible.

Our sung invocation is from the Philippines. It is an acclamation of praise. Thanks to Lara Tang for finding and teaching us the anthem, which is from Vietnam. It's a great text for the reading and sermon, about believing and keeping the faith. Vũ Đức Nghiêm has a doctorate in theology, but says he is also a "doctor of life". He writes music mostly about Jesus and has built several churches as Pastor. The choir is getting some expertise in singing in many languages! The middle hymn is a lovely Chinese hymn about the beauty of spring and creation. Chan Ka Nin is a composer at the University of Toronto. This piece was commissioned by the Toronto Royal Canadian College of Organists. The recessional hymn is a song of blessing from Singapore. The music is by University of Toronto (Emmanuel College) professor and director of the Master of Sacred Music program, Swee Hong Lim. He is a sought-after leader for global seminars and conferences dealing with worship and sacred music and is Director of Research for the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Rev. Karen Bridges in Victoria, in May 2017.

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Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges
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R-W REPORT May 21, 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

May 28, 2016, 10:30 am

Easter 7

Scripture:

- Romans 6: 1-14 Present yourself to God

Sermon: *A radical change in identity*

We present ourselves to God through baptism, which is more than a simple check mark on our bucket list. Having the spirit of God poured out upon us radically changes our identity and opens us to new possibilities. Baptism is the call to connect our actions with our faith. Our faith can give us the strength to make the hard decisions, our faith can give us the courage to change our behavior that harms us, others and the world. Presenting ourselves to God will help us to get back on track. It will also help us to walk a path of healing, compassion and wholeness and peace.

Music: Cantilon Chamber Choir; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

After Worship: All are invited to gather in the Memorial Hall for fellowship and refreshments.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Oliver Community Festival: We are looking for people to help organize events, and the site. See the sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall.

Community Dinner Cook: We are looking for a volunteer cook to prepare the community dinners. A group of volunteers get together to prepare a nutritious meal for the needy in the community. This meal is prepared once a month on the second Saturday of every month of the year. The Christmas meal in December is held on the first week of the

month. Numbers vary from 125 people to over 200 people for the Christmas meal. These dinners are planned and prepared by many volunteers. This program has been in operation for over 20 years and is self-sustaining. A trust fund was provided by a wonderful person to look after the costs these meals.

We meet new friends and have a lot of fun preparing these meals.

If you are interested you may contact Robertson-Wesley at mail@rwuc.org. We are looking forward to meeting you.

Thank you

Bake sale: We made **\$304.60** on Mother's Day from the sale! The proceeds go to the R-W legacy fund. Well done everyone! Thank you Sylvia P for supplying the baked goods.

Staff

Rev. Leigh Sinclair will be away May 25-28.

STAFFING UPDATE FROM MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

It is with great pleasure that the Ministry and Personnel Committee announces that we've hired a business manager. Garth van Herwaarden has been a Chartered Accountant for over 20 years and brings an excellent background in tax and financial controls as well as a deep love of our congregation as a member of Robertson-Wesley. He'll be working with the Finance Committee and our new treasurer, Donna Chmielewski.

Garth will be joined by Iain Gillis, who will lead the development of a communications strategy and implementation plan. Iain has been a valued part of our community since his time as General Manager of Cantilon Choirs. The communications work is inspired by the Joint Needs Assessment, which identified communications, especially social media and technology, as a priority for staffing.

Both Iain and Garth will rely on working with volunteers, committees and congregation members to achieve our mission together - please be sure to identify if you have an interest, passion or skills in these areas. Please contact Lisa, Chair of M&P at lisatrev@hotmail.com or 780-616-7763 if you have any questions about the business manager or communications work, or any other ministry and personnel questions.

R-W News & Notes

GARDEN GIFT CARDS

Garden cards have arrived. If you ordered garden cards from Salisbury Greenhouse for our fundraiser, please pick them up at the Grocery Card table in Memorial Hall after worship. Payment by cheque or cash will be required if you have not already prepaid. Thank-you for your support. **Your participation has earned \$335 for our church.**

SPIRITUAL FORMATION POD

TODAY! Sunday, May 21, 12:00 pm, Club Room

Please join us May 21st in the Club Room to discover friends who share your interest in Spiritual Formation. We will draw on our current, as well as our past experiences, at R-W and other places of worship that have contributed to our spiritual growth. Let's consider what inspires and nurtures our faith as Pentecost draws near. Let's engage with the Holy Spirit and celebrate as well as nurture our growing Spiritual edges.

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 **for the final session May 29 at 7 pm in the Club Room** for viewing and discussion. Refreshments provided.

OLIVER COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

There Goes the Neighbourhood!

The Oliver Community Festival is happening on **Saturday June 3, 2017 from 3pm - 9pm**. This year we will be creating an outdoor living room on the street with a market place, entertainment, and activities. There will be a political panel discussion, and a family friendly drag show and other fun activities like board games. We are looking for people to help organize events, and the site. See the sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall. We are also looking for people who would be willing to bring their outdoor patio furniture for the event and then pick them up after the event. If you are interested in helping please e-mail olivercommunityfestival@gmail.com

This event is about bringing people together in our city.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

Everyone in our Robertson-Wesley faith community is invited to include their picture in our Photo Directory. Next photo session is Sunday morning at 10:00 am and again right after worship in the **Club Room on June 4**.

THE UNITED VOICES OF EDMONTON AND R-W RINGERS ARE GOING ON TOUR IN JUNE!!!

The United Voices of Edmonton (combined choirs of United on Whyte and Choir of Robertson-Wesley), and the R-W Ringers are going on tour! As we continue in the work of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we are thrilled to have Cree singer/songwriter Karen Donaldson Shepherd collaborating with us in healing and harmony. We received a Canada 150 community grant to do five concerts in four days in the Edmonton region including all four surrounding counties. We will be performing all Canadian music.

Admission to each of these concerts is by freewill offering. For more info. see the poster insert, the web site, or stayed tuned for other communications.

50TH ANNIVERSARY HANDBELL CONCERT

Did you know it's been 50 years that there have been handbells at Robertson-Wesley? Come celebrate with us at our concert on June 4 after church. See the insert for more info.

UPCOMING IMPROVEMENTS AT ROBERTSON-WESLEY

Two projects will be completed at Robertson-Wesley this year, likely by the end of July. Those projects are:

1. Replace the present elevator (No elevator June 5-July 31 worst case scenario, could be shorter)
2. Upgrade the basement washrooms to make them accessible. (June 22-July 31)

Bear with us during these renovations as the lack of an elevator will inconvenience some people. The east entrance with the ramp will be used by those who can't manage the stairs.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun May 21	Meditation Group– Room 11	10:00 am
	Spiritual Formation Pod– Room 11	12:00 pm
Mon May 22	Office closed - Victoria Day	
Tue May 23	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	Family Ministry– Karen's office	7:00 pm
Wed May 24	Membership Class– Club Room	7:00 pm
	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu May 25	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun May 28	Meditation Group– Room 11	10:00 am
	Koinonia– Memorial Hall	5:30 pm
Mon May 29	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
	DVD Series– Club Room	7:00 pm
Tue May 30	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
Wed May 31	Membership Class– Club Room	7:00 pm
Sat Jun 03	Oliver Community Fest– all of church	3:00 pm

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