



Robertson - Wesley

UNITED CHURCH *Spirited*

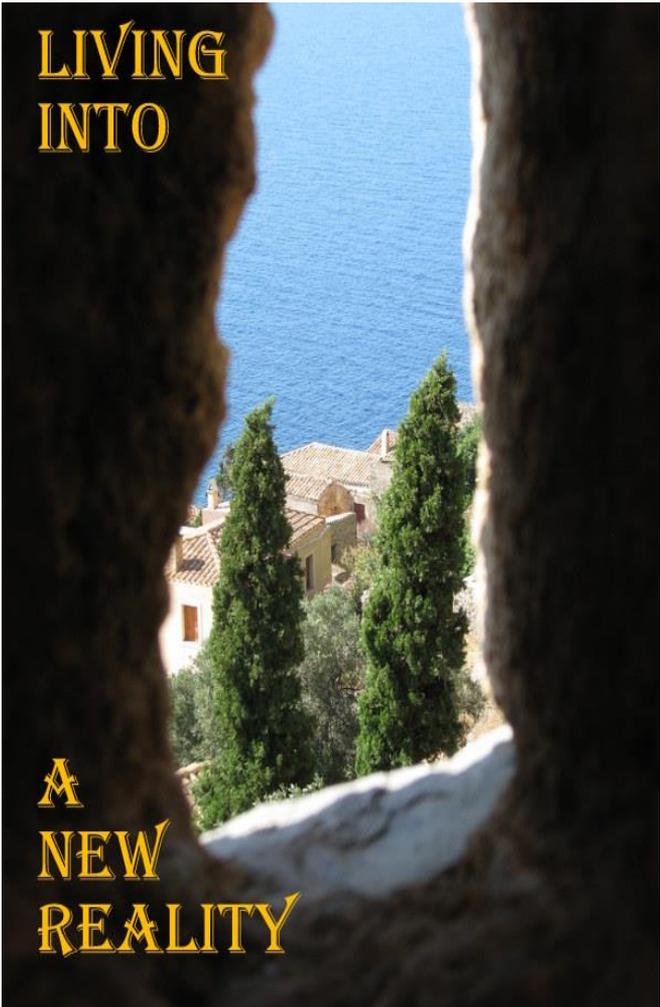
An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 May 28

Easter 7

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.



LIVING INTO

A NEW REALITY

Friends in Christ

The flowers in the sanctuary are in celebration of the joy received from our pets.

*Today, O God, thank you for our fur friends and the way they can touch our souls and reveal something of you. A gift from **Rosemary Dunbar**.*

Prelude: *Freedom is Coming*, South Africa Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Sung Invocation: *Alleluia (Uruguay)* **More Voices 52**

Embracing Our Spirit

Opening Prayer:

Broaden our vision, O God,
and we will use forms of prayer and praise we never considered before.

Broaden our vision, O God,
and we will see the person of Jesus Christ in friend and in stranger.

Broaden our vision, O God,
and we will find avenues for Christian service that are fresh and exciting.

Broaden our vision, O God,
and we will have the courage to speak and act for a good world, a world renewed by your love. Amen.¹

Opening Hymn: *Let Us Praise the God of Truth* **Voices United 237**
(Sing in English, French or Mungaka)

Coming Into God's Presence Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

Introit: *He Came Down*, Cameroon, arr. Nancy Grundahl Cantilon Chamber Choir

Scripture: Donna Krucik

Romans 6: 1-14 • Present yourself to God

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know

¹ Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2017, p. 40. Used with permission.

that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."²

This is the witness of the Church

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

Anthem: *Mambo Jesu*, Zimbabwe, arr. Scott Leithead/Kathleen Skinner

Cantillon Chamber Choir

Sermon: *A radical change in identity*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *We Give Our Thanks*

More Voices 187

(Sing in English, French or Tswana)

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Learnings from Leadership

Jack Waters

Offering: *Alleluia*, Kelly-Marie Murphy

Cantillon Chamber Choir

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

Closing Hymn: *Your Will Be Done*

More Voices 151

Commissioning:

God's love extends beyond what we can fathom.

God's compassion knows no bounds.

**In the light of these understandings, we go out to a hurting world
looking to bring peace and justice in all that we do.³**

Postlude: *Haleluya! Pelo Tsa Rona*, South Africa

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

² *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. (1991, Oxford University Press)

³ Written by Jim McKean, **Gathering** Lent/Easter 2016, p. 44. Used with permission.

Music Notes

Thanks to the Cantilon Chamber Choir for their leadership this morning, and especially to their director Heather Johnson and pianist Shannon Hiebert. This morning in the last of our series focusing on the United Church as an intercultural church, we are using music mostly from Africa. Thanks to Forbi Hirwood, one of our choristers who is from Republic of Cameroon for drumming on several pieces today.

The Chamber Choir is singing several African pieces this morning. The first is from Cameroon. We have a version of this in *More Voices* 33. The second is a great song from Zimbabwe, which was taught to the Kokopelli choirs by Juba, an Alberta-based vocal group that existed from 1988-1996, and this was subsequently arranged by two of the Kokopelli directors – Scott Leithead and Katy Skinner. The offering selection is by Canadian composer Kelly-Marie Murphy. She has lived all over Canada, received her B. Mus. in composition at the University of Calgary, and is now based in Ottawa. She has written for orchestra, chamber ensembles, piano, electronic music, and music for choirs and brass bands. Her music has been described as “imaginative and expressive” (The National Post).

The Prelude and Postlude are both from South Africa. Often freedom songs had various layers of meaning, both political and religious, thereby avoiding censorship. These two are no different. Freedom is Coming speaks about freedom (from apartheid) but also about knowing that Jesus is coming, or that we will receive freedom in heaven. Halleluya is more sacred in nature, talking about what Jesus gives to each of us, sending us all out to tell the Gospel.

Our sung Alleluia was brought to Uruguay by African slaves.

The opening hymn is from Cameroon, and the theme hymn is from Botswana. It's really easy to sing in any of the three languages printed on either hymn, and the opening hymn is full of Easter Alleluias!

The final hymn is from South Africa and was taught by George Mdadana. He is a well-known composer, arranger, choral conductor, and champion of South African music.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Devika Short.

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 Eckenswiller
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell

10209 – 123 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 1N3
Phone (780) 482-1587 · Fax (780) 482-1580
mail@rwuc.org · www.rwuc.org



R-W REPORT May 28, 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

June 4, 2017, 10:30 am

Pentecost

Scripture:

- Acts 2:1-4
- Romans 8: 18-39 "The Spirit Intercedes for us"

Sermon: *The Spirit Reveals*

The gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was not its birth but its revelation! Wisdom had always called and been heard. Jesus' news was only that this Spirit – part of God's very creativity and Creation – is also an Advocate and the part of God that reveals God's current activity in the world. How can one see God at work in what we call Providence, today?

Music: R-W Ringers; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

After Worship: All are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the 50th Anniversary Handbell Concert.

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.

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.**

KOINONIA

Theme: Are We Looking After God's Garden?

Join us on **Sunday, May 28** for a service lead by Tony Jansen. Pot luck dinner will begin at 5:30 pm with the service to follow.

Koinonia is a monthly Alternative Worship and Fellowship service emphasizing informality, fellowship and lay leadership. Koinonia's nearly forty-year history is unique among Edmonton United churches and for many participants, has been instrumental in developing knowledge and confidence in expressing their faith.

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.**

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.

BLANKET EXERCISE

Robertson-Wesley is pleased to be the location that a Blanket Exercise is being held. It will be held in Memorial Hall from **7:00-9:00 pm on Thursday, June 1, 2017. Everyone is welcome.**

A Blanket Exercise is an interactive learning opportunity to share Canada's history from the perspective of Indigenous peoples. It covers over 500 years of history in a one and half hour participatory workshop. Please contact: michelle.iskew@gmail.com to register.

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.

FILL-A-CRIB!

Between Mother's Day (May 14) and Father's Day (June 18), we will be collecting supplies for the Bissell Centre to distribute to families with young babies.

Gifts can be brought in any time during this period and placed in the portable crib that will be either in the sanctuary.

Thank you for your generosity, and let's fill that crib

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 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
	R-W Choir rehearsal– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu June 01	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat June 03	Oliver Community Fest– all of church	3:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun June 04	Photo Directory sessions– Club Room	10:00 am
	Handbell Concert– Sanctuary	11:30 am
Mon May 05	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
Tue June 06	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	DEAP– Club Room	5:00 pm
Wed June 07	Canterbury service– offsite	10:30 am
Thu June 08	M&P, staff meeting– Room 11	8:30 am
Sat June 10	R-W Youth, Pride Parade– offsite	10:00 am
	Community Dinner– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm