



Robertson - Wesley

UNITED CHURCH *Spirited*

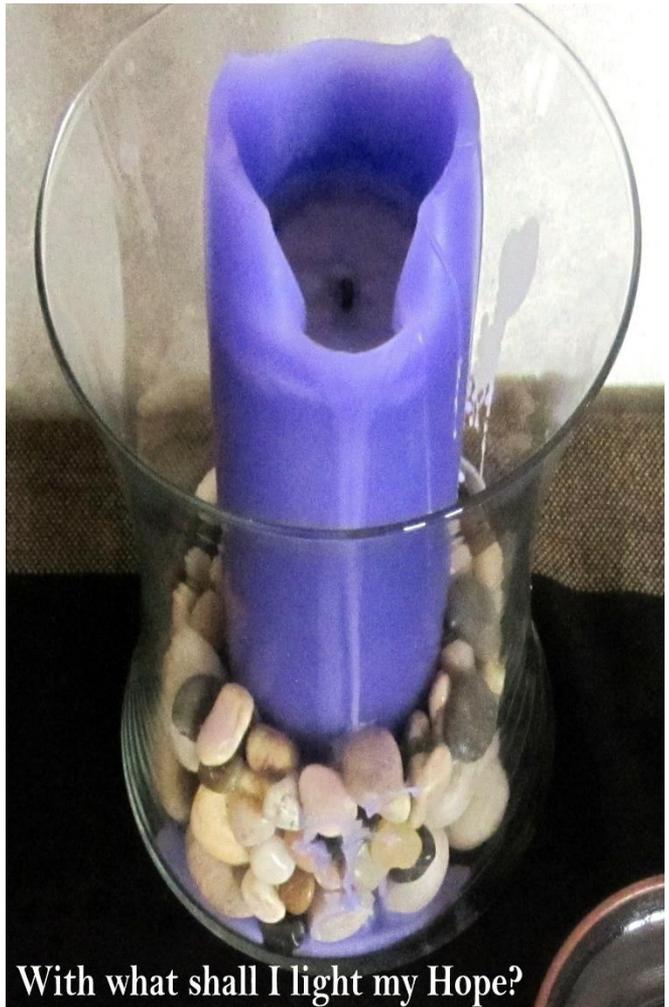
An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 Dec 3

Advent 1

Welcome and Inclusion

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



With what shall I light my Hope?

Friends in Christ

Prelude: *Canticle of Hope*, Cynthia Dobrinski

Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

Embers and sparks:

The beginnings of something new.

Seeds and dirt:

The beginnings of something new.

Advent and awaiting:

The beginnings of something new.

Welcome to the new year of the church family!

Welcome to Advent everyone and let us worship God!

Prayer of Approach

Processional Hymn: *Kindle a Flame*

Voices United 19

Coming Into God's Presence & candle lighting

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *I Will Wait*, Glen Warren & Nancy Chegus

(insert)

God's Holy Word

Introit: *Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth*, Mark Schweizer

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scripture:

Daniel 3: 1, 8-30 • Into the Fire with Faith

John Fleming

(verses 8-30) Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him.

They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

This is the witness of Israel.

Thanks be to God our loving Creator.

Anthem: *And Every Stone Shall Cry*, Bob Chilcott

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Where is the spark to keep us warm?*

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *A Light is Gleaming*

Voices United 82

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

The Lord's Prayer

(Voices United p. 921)

Grateful Response

Seconds for Stewardship

Ian Inglis

When we get in the habit

we get more out than we put in, and for this we give God thanks.

Stewardship Response: *Rise Up Rise Up*

More Voices 130

Offering: *Shades of Forest Green*, Timothy Waugh Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Offertory Hymn:

More Voices 222

May the peace of God be your peace.

May the love of God be the love you show.

May the joy of God be the joy you know,

and may the world that God would see be found in you.

Prayer of Gratitude

Recessional Hymn: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Voices United 1 (vs. 1, 2, 5, 6)

Commissioning:

As we begin our Advent journey:

God give us hope!

Hope will heal and open our eyes, ears and hearts.

We will hear and proclaim your good news:

Jesus is coming again as a baby to surprise us into hope!

Jesus is coming on a dark night to surprise us with Love!

Thanks be to God for Advent- a time to prepare!

We go in hope to share this good news!

Postlude: *Come All Ye Shepherds*, Jeffery A. Hall Robertson-Wesley Ringers

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

Music Notes

Here we are in Advent! You'll notice a shift in the music as well as the rest of the liturgy – more contemplative, some minor keys to feel that angst of longing and waiting, more pastorale settings etc. We are very fortunate this Advent to be using a text written by Glen Warren, a former congregation member and chorister, who moved from Edmonton last year to Keswick, Ontario. This beautiful poem that we will use around the lighting of the Advent candles, was set to music by Nancy Chegus, formerly of St. Albert United and now at Hillhurst United in Calgary. The text speaks of the stillness, starlight, wandering, the knowledge that there is light even in the midst of the difficult moments in our lives, and that there is hope and that we just need to be patient! Patience is difficult in Advent!

The choir will sing a number of pieces by Bob Chilcott during Advent, starting today. The texts that he has chosen for the three pieces we're working on are very deep, unlike the more simple "surface" texts that we sometimes find in the Christmas season. The text for "And Every Stone Shall Cry" comes from writer Richard Wilbur (b 1921). This text describes how each person and object shall pay homage to Jesus. It also tells more of the story of Jesus life – the march

through Jerusalem, his death, and echos the words of the Magnificat with the lowly being lifted up, how Jesus is the one who has come to reconcile the world and create peace. Bob Chilcott has been described by the Guardian/Observer as “a contemporary hero of British Choral Music” and his wonderful writing comes from his intimate knowledge of voices due to his 12 years with The King’s Singers.

The R-W Ringers share some marvellous seasonal music this morning. As “Hope” is one of the themes of Advent, it’s in the prelude, and the tune of the offering piece might be familiar, but Waugh puts a neat twist on it for the outer segments of the piece, he sets the tune in a minor key, and in the middle resolves it to major. This tune is used for many texts, but is sometimes used for “O Little Town of Bethlehem” especially in England. The last piece is based on a Bohemian Carol and you can just picture the shepherds getting closer and closer to Bethlehem and their excitement growing and growing!

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by at a Contempative Practices event, by Rev. Karen Bridges. Our next evening of these Spiritual Practices will be January 7, 2019.

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Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges
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R-W REPORT DECEMBER 3, 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

December 10, 2017, 10:30 am

Advent 2 and White Gift Sunday

Children & Youth: Children begin in the sanctuary, then go to their Kids' Church program. Youth meet in the youth room at the beginning of the service.

Scripture: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Sermon: Fear blows in, what will ground you?

Advent is a season of emptying ourselves and preparing a space for peace to arise within. How can we decrease the power of anxiety in our lives and increase the space for imagination, visioning and peace-making? Come and explore with us - how can we make Christmas about letting go when all the voices around us this time of year say: fill up?

Music: Nova Bells; Choir of R-W; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

Volunteer Opportunities:

Wanted: Magic Pantry Coordinator- We are seeking an individual to coordinate our weekly bag lunch program. Bag lunches are given out over the noon hour on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. We have volunteers that sign up to do this. The coordinator would ensure that there are supplies to make the lunches and would coordinate Sandwich making parties when needed. The coordinator will also help to train and orient volunteers. If you would like to know more about this program please contact Rev. Karen Bridges.

Magic Pantry- Responding to the need in our own neighbourhood, R-W provides a free bag lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 12-1. This outreach program relies on volunteers to be available with a

bag lunch ready for people that come to the door. This program is a great way to connect and provide outreach in the community.

Polishing Party; Tuesday, Dec 5 at 1:30 pm; It is that time of the year again where we get a bunch of people to come together in the kitchen at Robertson-Wesley and polish the brass candle sticks that get used at several of our Advent and Christmas services. It will take anywhere from 1-2 hours depending on how many people come. Bring a treat to share! It is a lot of fun and a great way to meet some new people. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in memorial hall or email Rev. Karen Bridges.

Thank you to all the volunteers and coordinators for the All is Bright Festival on Saturday, Nov 25. The event was a huge success.

Staff News

Rev. Karen Bridges will be away on Dec 10.

R-W News & Notes

BETWEEN THE AISLES

The Winter edition of the R-W newsletter “Between the Aisles” is hot off the presses! Pick yours up today.

ADVENT RECITAL SERIES

Thursdays from 12:10 pm to 12:50 pm

Robertson-Wesley is hosting a noon-hour concert series again this Advent, for three Thursdays beginning December 7. Freewill offering.

Dec 7 – Mingmei Xu, violin & Jim Findlay, guitar

Dec 14 – Nansee Hughes, soprano & Spencer Kryzanowski, piano

Dec 21 – Matthew McGuigan, flute & Tammy-Jo Mortensen, keyboards

CANTERBURY CHRISTMAS

Once again Robertson-Wesley is providing Christmas Cheer for our friends at Canterbury Court. On **Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 pm**, there will be Christmas music in the Chapel - your favourite carols, enthusiastic singing, musical instruments. You are invited to join us and if you play a musical instrument, bring it along. For more information contact Marg May: maycroft@shaw.ca or 780-454-9226

OBSERVER RENEWAL

It's time to renew your Observer subscription. New subscriptions are also welcome! The Observer is a great resource for spiritual development as well as a way to keep up with what is happening in the United Church. The cost is \$25.00 for one year (11 issues, July and August is combined). Renewals and subscriptions can be handed in to the church office or the offertory plate on Sundays. Please make your cheques payable to Robertson-Wesley United Church with Observer noted in the memo

section of the cheque. Subscription deadline is **Dec 15**. Email or phone the church office if you have any questions.

LESSONS & CAROLS

The service of Lessons and Carols takes place at Robertson-Wesley next **Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 pm**.

This is an afternoon of traditional congregational carols, scripture readings and music sung by the Choir of Robertson-Wesley, directed by Tammy-Jo Mortensen and accompanied by Belinda Chiang. The music includes several traditional favourites and some newly composed music. Our featured composer this year is the English composer Bob Chilcott. The gentle beauty of the dissipating winter light combined with the music, candles and the Christmas story creates a magical afternoon. Please come and invite your friends and neighbours! This has become a favourite tradition for many. No charge, freewill offering.

GOD ON TAP

Young adults ages 18-45ish are invited to join Karen for some spiritual discussion over pints or beverages. We will meet at the Bru Coffee and Beer House (11965 Jasper Ave - Pearl Tower.) **Tuesday, December 12 from 7 pm – 8:30 pm**. Your friends are welcome to come.

CHRISTMAS with UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Tuesday, December 12 at 1:15 pm

All are welcome to attend this gathering.

LIVE NATIVITY & FREE BBQ AT ROBERTSON-WESLEY

Robertson-Wesley United Church invites the whole community to our Live Nativity scene this Christmas. Young and old alike will have an opportunity to interact with the nativity characters and even become some of the characters if desired (bring along your cameras for photos) with Christmas music in the background. There will be a fire to cozy up to while listening to stories and roasting marshmallows and enjoy a free smokies and hot chocolate!

This all-age event is on Saturday December 16th from 4-5:30 pm on the front lawn of the church. Stop by with your family, friends and neighbours for a picture with Baby Jesus.

There is no admission charge, but the church will be accepting donations of mittens, gloves, socks, toiletries or non-perishable food for the Bissell Centre.

GROCERY CARDS

Please consider purchasing grocery cards from Robertson-Wesley in Memorial Hall after Sunday Worship. Any grocery cards that Robertson-Wesley purchases from Superstore in November & December and Safeway/Sobeys from October to December are subject to an

additional discount for the church. Specifically, the church gets 5 per cent from each Superstore grocery card you purchase and 8 per cent from each Safeway/Sobeys grocery card you purchase. Save On Foods provides a 6 percent discount all year long. Grocery cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100. Cash and cheques are accepted. These make great gifts!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

Seeking purpose and meaning

January 7, 2018 Memorial Hall

Are you seeking an escape from the world, an oasis in your busy life? Are you seeking some quiet? Are you seeking time for yourself or inspiration? Then we invite you to engage in Contemplative Practices at Robertson-Wesley United Church in Memorial Hall.

When you enter memorial Hall you will find pockets of inspiration that will clear your mind, open your heart, and bring your spirit into connection with the sacred and the world. Throughout Memorial Hall there will be different spaces with different contemplative practices that invite you to meditate, pray, while engaging in some artistic exercises.

Drop by anytime between the hours of 7:00-8:30 pm. Stay for as long as you would like. This is a self-directed program with instructions throughout the room to give you some guidance on your journey. This program year, we will have seven Sunday evenings, each with a different theme. Invite your friends, family and neighbours to enter the oasis and emerge inspired, enlightened, grounded and feeling nourished.

Community Events

CANTILON CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Cantilon's family of choirs invite you to their annual choral celebration of the holiday season on **Sunday, December 10, 2:30 pm**, at the Francis Winspear Centre for Music. This year's concert, "Along the Road to Bethlehem", will feature William Mathias' Salvator Mundi, a carol sequence for treble voices. Cantilon Choirs' classic Christmas concert has become an audience favourite. Please join the Cantilon family of choirs for an afternoon of holiday musical splendour where you will hear over 150 voices fill the Winspear Centre with the beautiful sounds of both familiar and new seasonal choral music. To order tickets and learn more about Cantilon Choirs, visit cantilonchoirs.ca or 780-732-1262. Tickets are \$25 in advance, or \$30 at the door.

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA AUTHOR'S BREAKFAST

Author's Breakfast and Talk featuring Laurel Deedrick-Mayne
Hear Laurel Deedrick-Mayne, Edmonton author and winner of the \$10,000 Alberta Readers' Choice Award, speak about her first book A

WAKE AT THE DREAMLAND. DKG, an international women educators' society, invites you to its 10th annual Author's Breakfast to hear about the ten-year process of researching and writing the book which takes place in Edmonton, Peace River and Europe during WW II. Tickets make an ideal Christmas present.

Memorial Hall, Saturday, February 3, 2018, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Cost: \$20.00

Questions/reserve: lornaber@telus.net; clarkwinchesters@shaw.ca

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Dec 3	R-W Music Society AGM- Room 11	12:00 pm
Mon Dec 4	Spirited Art Studio- Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tue Dec 5	Yoga- Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group- Club Room	12:10 pm
	Spirited Art Studio- Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Polishing Party- kitchen	1:30 pm
	DEAP Pod- Room 11	5:00 pm
Wed Dec 6	Canterbury service- offsite	10:30 am
	Choir of R-W- Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Dec 7	Advent Recital Series- Sanctuary	12:10 pm
	Nova Bells- Lower Hall	5:15 pm
Sat Dec 9	Choral Morphosis- Lower Hall	10:00 am
	Craft Class with Tony J- Memorial Hall	1:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Dec 10	Lesson & Carols- Sanctuary	4:00 pm
	Soul OUTing- Sanctuary	7:00 pm
Mon Dec 11	Spirited Art Studio- Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tue Dec 12	Scripture Reflection Group- Club Room	12:10 pm
	United Church Women- Memorial Hall	1:15 pm
	Spirited Art Studio- Art Studio	1:30 pm
Wed Dec 13	Men's Group- offsite (Albert's Restaurant)	9:30 am
Thu Dec 14	Advent Recital Series- Sanctuary	12:10 pm
	Stewardship- offsite	5:00 pm
Sat Dec 16	Live Nativity & BBQ- Narthex, front yard	4:00 pm

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

We wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory and a traditional meeting ground for many Indigenous peoples.