



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 Dec 10

White Gift Sunday

Advent 2



Winds may blow...God grounds us in peace.

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.

Friends in Christ

Prelude: *Òran Tàlaidh a'Phìobaire (Piper's Lullaby)*, Timothy Waugh
Nova Bells & Matthew McGuigan, flute

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

We gather once again to be together in worship, prayer and song.

We gather once again, together and grateful.

We gather to continue our Advent journey, those days leading up to Christmas and its holy and amazing stories.

We gather to journey together and to support one another's walk.

We are all learning to walk in faith no matter where the wind blows.

We all are seeking God's breath to uphold us as we journey.

May God inspire and uphold us on our journey to Bethlehem!

Opening Prayer¹

Processional Hymn: *Prepare the Way of the Lord* **Voices United 10**

Coming Into God's Presence and Candlelighting

Hymn: *I Will Wait*

Glen Warren & Nancy

Chegus (insert)

God's Holy Word

Introit: *Glory Now to God We Render*, J. S. Bach Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Scripture:

Rachel Frey

Ezekiel 37: 1-14 • Dry Bones Live

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O

¹ Prayers this morning are inspired by Bob Root, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2017-18, p. 67. Used with permission.

breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

This is the witness of Israel

Thanks be to God our loving Creator.

Anthem: *The Rose in the Middle of Winter*, Bob Chilcott Choir of R-W

Sermon: *Fear blows in, what will ground you?* Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* **Voices United 2**

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Offering: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, arr. Brian Childers

Nova Bells & Stuart Sladden, piano

White Gifts may be brought forward as the offering is being gathered.

White Gift Sunday dates back to 1904 when a family realized that giving gifts wrapped in white paper (to people in need) would allow giver and receiver to remain anonymous. The United Church has participated in this tradition since the inception of the church. Here in Edmonton we gather gifts for children, youth and adults along with non-perishable food items which are distributed to people in need through The Bissell Centre.

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: *It Came upon a Midnight Clear* **Voices United 44**

Commissioning:

Go out now grounded in the peace that faith can bring!

We go out to live out our faith day by day.

As we journey may you remember to breath in God’s love for you.

**May we know God’s spirit seeks to fill us with promise,
with peace, with Christ!!**

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

Music Notes

Thanks to the extra musicians who are helping this morning, Matthew, Stuart and especially our two subs, Dorothy Kelker and Karen Gabert. The prelude is a piece with a Gaelic title meaning “Piper’s Lullaby”, and is dedicated to the composers brother, who is a piper. However, rather than pipes on this piece, the gentleness has suggested that the melody be played on recorder, C instrument or handchimes, but due to the Celtic nature, Matthew will either play this on flute or tin whistle. We thought this piece was evocative of a pastorale, which is a style of music especially from the Baroque period with a lilty rhythm, a simple harmony, sometimes a drone bass, with a melody often on a flute or a reed pipe. The introit is from Bach’s cantata 140. This is the famous “Wachet auf” chorale and Bach also wrote a marvellous chorale prelude for organ using this tune, which I will likely play next week. The choir also shares another piece by Bob Chilcott, the British contemporary composer. In this text by poet Charles Bennett, many of the themes of Advent come out: waiting, longing, joy, stars, children, and the rose and bird are harbingers of the child to come. The rose is also one of the symbols commonly used for Mary. Pizzacato is a term used most often for string players (violins, cellos etc.) when they pluck their strings instead of using the bow. Here the Nova Bells use mallets to create several percussive sounds, including pizzicato.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken at the Blue Christmas service in 2015, artist Laura David Foster.

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 DECEMBER 10, 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 17, 2017, 10:30 am

Advent 3

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: Isaiah 55: 1-11 Invitation to Abundant Life

Sermon: Longing for something? You've come to the right place.

The prophet Isaiah presents us with an invitation, one that requires no money, no price, no hidden catches. Through Isaiah we are called to listen so that we may live with abundance. In this season of consumerism, and excess we need to ask ourselves: How do we infuse our material lives with the divine word of God's redemptive love? How can we make it through Christmas without losing sight of what is truly important? How can we find the joy of living in this time of great expectations?

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

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

Volunteer Opportunities:

Christmas Eve Ushers and Scripture Readers- We need a few more greeters and scripture readers for the 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm services on December 24.

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.

Thank you to all the people who helped at the Dec 2 Community Dinner. Many people left full of cheer, a full stomach and a much needed gift of warmth. Thank you for your donations of clothing and food.

Staff News

Rev. Karen Bridges is away today, Dec 10.

Rev. Leigh Sinclair will be away Dec 17.

R-W News & Notes

LESSONS & CAROLS

The service of Lessons and Carols takes place at Robertson-Wesley

TODAY! 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! Freewill offering.

ADVENT RECITAL SERIES

Thursdays from 12:10 pm to 12:50 pm

Robertson-Wesley is hosting a noon-hour concert series again this Advent. Freewill offering.

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

Music of Warlock, Head, Britten, Wolf, Yon, Reger and Mozart

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

ARTFUL RESPONSES- SPIRITED ARTS MOVEMENT

Don't Shop Til You'll drop - Dance

Friday, Dec 15, 7 – 9:00 pm, Art Studio

December is filled with busy times often buying gifts for family and friends. “Don't Shop Til You'll Drop” is a guided experience to get you into your body, dancing, moving and warming up! Guaranteed to be fun and free (in all senses of the word).

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

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 Bissell.

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. Invite your friends, family and neighbours to enter the oasis and emerge inspired, enlightened, grounded and feeling nourished.

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. Grocery cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100. Cash and cheques are accepted. These make great gifts!

CHOIR CABARET – SAT. FEBRUARY 24, 7:30

These wine and cheese cabaret tickets make a great Christmas gift and a wonderful outing in the new year! On sale today after church - \$15.

ANNUAL REPORT

The deadline for reports from the committees of the church is **Sunday, Jan 14, 2018**. Send your information to mail@rwuc.org with “2017 Annual Report Submission” in the subject line.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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
	God on Tap – offsite (Bru Café)	7:00 pm
Wed Dec 13	Men’s Group– offsite (Albert’s Restaurant)	9:30 am
	Choir of R-W– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Dec 14	Advent Recital Series– Sanctuary	12:10 pm
	Stewardship– offsite	5:00 pm
Fri Dec 15	Don’t Shop: Dance– Art Studio	7:00 pm
Sat Dec 16	Live Nativity & BBQ– Narthex, front yard	4:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Dec 17	Songfest at Canterbury– offsite	3:00 pm
Mon Dec 18	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tue Dec 19	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	Board meeting– Room 11	7:00 pm
Thu Dec 21	Advent Recital Series– Sanctuary	12:10 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

Sun Dec 24	Christmas Eve Services– 4:00 pm, 8:00 pm & 11:00 pm	
Mon Dec 25	Christmas Day Service– Memorial Hall	10:30 am

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Church is closed over the holidays from Dec 23, 2017 to Jan 1, 2018. Regular hours resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

10209 – 123 Street, Edmonton AB T5N 1N3

Phone: 780-482-1587 . Fax: 780-482-1580 . mail@rwuc.org . www.rwuc.org

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.